NEWS

Hair we go . . . salon celebrates

Owner Pauline Stevens, front right, and Gillian Allen and the rest of the Franc Hairdressers staff celebrate the 20th anniversary

A HAIRDRESSING salon in Rugeley is gearing up to celebrate 20 years in the business.

Paul Franc Hairdressers was set up on October 6, 1993, and is still going strong.

Owner of the Albion Street salon, Pauline Stevens, who trained at Walsall College, set up the firm 20 years ago after taking a career break to have her two children.

She puts the success of the salon down to 'lovely, dedicated staff' and competitive pricing.

Mrs Stevens is rewarding her staff for their efforts with a trip to Ragdale Hall Spa in Melton Mobray for the day as a special thank you for their commitment to the salon.

"I was trained to be a hair stylist at Walsall College, where I studied from the age of 15 to 17," said Mrs Stevens.

Letting

"I then worked at a salon in Brereton for a short while before going on to work in Lion Street in Rugeley until I was ready to have my first child at the age of 21.

"So 20 years ago the opportunity came up to buy a salon and although my husband and I were intending on letting someone else run it, I slowly became more involved in it and now run the salon.

"I've got a lovely set of dedicated staff who've been with me for a long time.

"I couldn't do it without them. Some of the girls have been with me 16 or 17 years. It's very rare I have anyone leave."

Mrs Stevens says she has not seen a great deal of change in the industry over the years, but said the 'up-dos' she now does for special occasions and weddings were once an everyday job.

"Perms are coming back too," she added.

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Placard protest over waste scheme

Protesters against the waste plan

PLACARD-WAVING protesters opposed to a £20 million waste plant on their doorsteps greeted a delegation of councillors when they visited the controversial site.

The campaigners are battling to stop an anaerobic digester in Huntington, near Cannock, where Littleton Colliery once stood.

Councillors toured the site last Friday ahead of a planning meeting when a decision on whether to allow the 200ft-high plant will be made.

Villagers are concerned the digester would be a blot on the landscape, which borders Cannock Chase and is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Members of the newly-formed Huntington Village Champions set up their protest on Cocksparrow Lane, close to the site entrance, and later put their objections in person to the delegation. Group chairman, Emily Cox, a 36-year-old scientist who lives in Roman Way, said pollutants from the plant and the extra traffic generated were the biggest drawbacks. "This village has only just recovered from its mining past, now residents are having to contend with the prospect of an anaerobic digester and biomass plant," she said. "This is a seriously deprived area, the last thing people want is something that adds to the pollution. We feel this is the wrong place, particularly with a school just 500 metres down the road."

Anger as mother loses her parking bay lifeline

A DISABLED woman has been told she can no longer have a parking bay outside her home because of plans to install a dropped kerb.

Pauline Partington learned of the decision by letter after returning to her Cannock bungalow following a stay in respite care.

Pauline Partington – unhappy over the removal of a disabled parking bay

The 57-year-old, who gets about on a mobility scooter and also has an adapted car, is distraught by the decision. The bay had been installed just three months earlier.

Mrs Partington, who has spondylitis of the spine, had applied for the special parking bay outside her home on the advice of her support worker.

Her son Wayne Partington, 29, of Burntwood, said his mother had very poor mobility and could not walk unaided.

"She was delighted when the council told her she could have her own bay," he said.

"It made a big difference to her because she lives in a cul-de-sac and parking is a problem.

Strongly

"But she came out of respite this week to a letter telling her it was going to be removed 'due to unforeseen circumstances'.

"I feel strongly that she is being discriminated against because she is disabled. She also suffers from depression and this situation has completely devastated her."

Councillor Simon Tagg, Staffordshire County Council cabinet support member for transport, said: "The county council will consider providing disabled parking bays outside homes in certain circumstances.

"In this particular case, the bay needed to be removed to allow access to a neighbouring property which may still be necessary in the future. We are exploring the options available to the family."

Microchip pets offer

PETS at Home Cannock is holding a cut-price microchipping event on Saturday and Sunday to help owners protect their pets from being lost or stolen.

Under new government rules, all dogs in in England by 2016, or owners will face fines for non-compliance.

To help owners meet the deadline, and also encourage them to lessen the likelihood of permanently losing a pet, the store is offering a special rate of £10 (usually £15).

Manager Joanne Stephens said: "With microchipping, if your cat or dog is lost or stolen, there is a better chance you will avoid any heartache and be re-united with your beloved pet."

Heart is where the home is

School Court resident Olive Walencik admires the heart shaped flower bed

RESIDENTS at a retirement complex in Hednesford have seen their gardens blossom thanks to a £2,000 boost from the ExtraCare Charitable Trust.

The money was used to improve the attractive gardens at School Court, Station Road.

It is one of ExtraCare's 31 villages and schemes for the elderly, had submitted a makeover plan to the trust's gardening expert Howard Drury who selected eight winners. The money was used to replace a flower bed, improve the lawns and also build a ramp to the gazebo.

Manager Lynn Bate said members of the Friends of Hednesford Park, including Lynn Evans and her three children, came along to help.

Other helpers included members of Hednesford Garden Club, volunteers John Buck and Gerald Griffiths and garden captain Lynn Keatley, who organised the day and submitted the makeover plans. Her nephew Tim Philpott also helped.

Cattle will help save heathland for future

A NATURE conservation charity is getting some special four-legged help to restore a rare habitat on Cannock Chase.

A number of hardy cattle have been introduced to graze two areas of Forestry Commission land totalling 59-acres to help restore lowland heathland as part of the Connecting Cannock Chase project.

The cattle on the Chase between Rugeley and Penkridge will help to keep invasive plants at bay, encouraging heather to flourish.

Heathland is important for many species of birds, including the threatened nightjar, which nests in small gaps within deep heather.

Bernadette Noake, biodiversity co-ordinator at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, said: "Through traditional heathland management techniques like grazing, this rare habitat has a chance to thrive."

"Animals have been used on the Chase in the past and by introducing a number of cattle to the area we can help create a varied habitat for wildlife.

People can help restore the heathland by joining a volunteer day on October 5 at 10am.

Meet at the car park of the White House pub off Penkridge Bank Road.

Time to take a cup of tea

CHURCHGOERS can drop in for tea, cake and crumpets in Rugeley next weekend.

They are invited to the harvest tea at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Church Lane, Etching Hill. It takes place from 4.30 to 6pm on Sunday, October 6.

A harvest lunch at S John's Church in Slitting Mill follows on Saturday, October 12. It costs £6 and takes place from noon, followed by an auction of harvest produce.

Sappers' date

THE Cannock Branch Royal Engineers Association meets next Tuesday, October 1 from 8pm at the Drill Hall, Walsall Road, Bridgtown. All serving or ex-service Sappers are welcome to attend. Call the branch secretary on 01543 423319 for more details.

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Drop-ins to inform on rail work

A SERIES of drop-in sessions have been arranged to inform people and businesses of the imminent start on the £30 million M Chase Line Electrification Scheme, between Walsall-Cannock-Hednesford-Rugeley.

Cannock Chase District Council has been pushing for the scheme for many years. It said in will transform the borough.

As well as making the area more attractive for inward investment and job creation, it will lead to more frequent, faster, quieter rail services.

It will also help make the case to restore direct services to Stafford and potentially beyond to the North West and south to London.

Construction is due to start in November, with major bridge rebuilding at Station Road, Hednesford, and on the access to the Chase Enterprise Centre.

Network Rail has arranged drop-ins at Cannock Civic Centre on Wednesday and Rugeley Leisure Centre on Thursday.

A third will be held at Walsall Civic Centre next Friday. All will run from 10:30am to 7pm.

Network Rail representatives will answer questions.

Councillor Gordon Alcott, economic development and planning portfolio leader said: "Electrification of the Chase Line will see the biggest improvement to passenger services since the line was reopened in 1989."

Rebecca's praise for new centre

SWIMMING star Rebecca Adlington has congratulated leisure chiefs in Cannock on the success of their £6million transformation of Chase Leisure Centre.

The Olympic gold medallist will officially open the Stafford Road centre on Saturday alongside fellow Great Britain swimmer Emma Wilkins. The venue, completed earlier this year, is now run by Wigan Leisure Charitable Trust.

Miss Adlington, who will give a motivational speech at the ceremony, said: "It's fantastic to see WLCT and Cannock Chase District Council working together to provide the local community with such a wonderful range of leisure facilities."

The opening will be at 11.30am and visitors will have the chance to talk to the swimmers at a meet-and-greet session between 1.30pm and 2.15pm.

Hannah's fundraising idea is a real beaut

Stylists Hannah O'Reilly and Amanda Mattocks, top, with beautician Becca Marsh get set for the fundraising

A HAIRDRESSER from Cannock whose mother survived breast cancer has set up a charity day at the hair and beauty salon where she works.

Hannah O'Reilly was inspired by the fundraising of her mum Susan Higgins, aged 60, over the last decade.

Mrs Higgins began collecting for medical research after her husband David, Hannah's stepfather, died of lung cancer 12 years ago.

Now Hannah is using her professional skills to follow her mother.

The 29-year-old, whose business Supacutz, operates from the Tan-tastic beauty salon in Mill Street, has organised a day of fun there on October 5.

Treatments will be reduced in price but customers will be invited to make donations to a cancer research charity.

Nails, eyelash extensions, eyebrow shaping and spray tans will all be donation only.

There will be a DJ and homemade cupcakes will be on sale. Raffle prizes have been donated by tattoo parlour Cannock Ink, the Missoula pub, the Ramada Hotel and McDonald's.

Hannah is offering a voucher for a permanent straightening treatment worth £75 to £100. Other treatments worth up to £100, including a hair restyle, and two large cakes are also in the raffle, tickets for which are on sale.

She said: "My mum's cancer brought us a lot closer than we otherwise would have been. She rattled tins outside supermarkets after my stepdad died. This is a way I can put my services to use in the best way possible."

Salon owner Becca Marsh and her husband Tim have been a big support, she said. Hannah's husband Barry is currently growing a beard which she will dye pink on the day.

Driver ploughed into back of lorry to take his own life

A FATHER who died when he crashed into the back of a stationary lorry did so to kill himself, an inquest has heard.

Raymond Darby, of New Street, Chase Terrace, died at the scene of the crash on the A5 at Wall, near Muckley Corner.

The 43-year-old HGV driver was seen driving his green Ford Fiesta onto a layby on the westbound carriageway before crashing into a Marks & Spencer lorry.

Witnesses described how they had not seen Mr Darby brake or swerve before he hit the truck on April 7.

Susan Helen Smith, of Sutton Coldfield, was driving behind him. A statement read on her behalf to Cannock Coroner's Court said: "I was completely shocked. I expected the car to slow or stop, but instead it continued to travel along the layby without stopping – I didn't see any brake lights."

"After three or four seconds the car collided with the rear end of the lorry. There was a loud bang, a plume of smoke and a shower of glass."

Hallmarks

Collision investigator Pc Andrew Salt told the court Mr Darby's hands were still on the steering wheel after he had died and his foot remained on the acceleration pedal. Mr Darby was also not wearing a seatbelt.

"Over the years I've attended many similar collision scenes and it does bear the hallmarks of a deliberate act," said Pc Salt.

A post mortem found Mr Darby's wrists had been broken and that he died of multiple injuries. The court was told he had tried to take an overdose just under a month before his death following an argument over the phone with his wife, but called paramedics. He was given a mental health assessment and discharged two days later.

The mental health team notified his GP surgery and gave him a list of numbers to call should he need further assistance.

His GP, Dr Bradwell at Fulfen Surgery, Burntwood, has criticised that care. South Staffordshire coroner Andrew Haigh said: "The GP described the aftercare as 'the bare minimum', which is right I'd say."

But Paul Bowers from South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare Trust, told the inquest: "The trust believes the action taken by the liaison worker was correct."

Mr Haigh concluded Mr Darby had killed himself.

Ready to join the memory walk are, from left, Lucy Steadman, Chris Pearson, Tracy MacKay and Michelle Brzozowski

'Mr Happy' Malcolm Hyatt and his wife Kath take part in the walk on the Chase

'Mr Happy' leads the way on Chase memory walk

A GRANDFATHER from Hednesford who has been dubbed 'Mr Happy' after losing the ability to be sad teamed up with a sports commentator to lead more than 700 people in a charity walk.

Hundreds of walkers joined in the fight against dementia by taking part in the Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk at Cannock Chase.

Malcolm Myatt, aged 68, has vascular dementia and is known as 'Mr Happy' as his condition means he no longer feels sadness. The former lorry driver was joined by his wife, Kath, 63, and grandsons Aaron, five, and three-year-old Dominic on the walk.

"It's unbelievable so many took part in the walk. I'm really chuffed," he said.

Sports commentator Rupert Bell, from radio station TalkSport, also led the walk.

He said: "My mother had dementia so I know what a cruel condition it can be and the devastating impact it has on families."

Among those supporting the walk was 18-year-old Emma Fletcher, of Longdon Green, volunteering in memory of her grandmother, Marjorie, who had Alzheimer's and died in 2008.

She was eventually left unable to recognise her own granddaughter. Emma said: "When I started out virtually nobody had heard of Alzheimer's. It's really good to see so many people supporting the walk. It shows just how much awareness has grown."

Compared

Emily Weighill, community fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Society, said: "Support for the walk has been magnificent.

"More than three times as many people took part this time compared to last year, and we expect to smash our target of raising £15,000, which is great.

For every walker who took part, Bupa Care Homes will donate a further £2.50 to support people living with dementia.

NEWS in brief

Anniversary for football centre

A FOOTBALL centre opened in Cannock in memory of a promising young footballer who died of meningitis has celebrating its first birthday.

The Liam Keeling Arena, at Cardinal Griffin School, has proved so popular that requests are being received from teams in Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The £800,000 facility is named after Liam, of Cheslyn Hay, who died of meningococcal meningitis in 2009, aged 13.

It is available to the public and other schools and spokesman Nenad Popovic said: "Our objective was to provide for the many different groups wishing to play football within the area."

Second birthday trust hits £30,000

THE Hibbs Lupus Trust will celebrate its second anniversary with a Curry and Comedian Night at The Padma Lounge, Cannock next month.

A buffet will be served on Monday, October 7 with entertainment by comedian Tom Allsop. Tickets cost £15 via the website www.hibbslupustrust.org or on 0800 633 5118.

The charity has raised more than £30,000 which is used to support patients of lupus in Staffordshire.

It is holding an information support group meeting at Cannock Hospital on Monday with guest speaker rheumatology specialist Dr M Amissah-Arthur. It starts at 6.30pm.

Les will roll into town for concert

FORMER Bay City Rollers frontman Les McKeown performs in Cannock next month.

The 70s star, whose hits include Shang-A-Lang and Bye Bye Baby will be at the Prince of Wales Centre, Church Street, at 7.30pm on Saturday October 26.

Tickets for Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers Show are £19.50, or £17.50 for concessions and available from the box office on 01543 578762.

Stab wound killed man, inquest told

A MAN who was found dead at his Ruugeley home died from a stab wound to the stomach, an inquest has heard.

Steven Hill, aged 55, was discovered at the house in Talbot Road, Brereton, on September 9. Police are not treating the death as suspicious. The inquest was adjourned.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IS ANYONE surprised by this week's TUC report showing that thousands of tenants have slipped into rent arrears after being clobbered with the bedroom tax? I can't think of a more mean-spirited policy than cutting the housing benefit of people whose only crime is to live in the house their local council or housing association gave them. Everyone accepts there is a desperate shortage of family-sized public housing, caused largely by successive governments ripping up border controls and rewarding people for breeding like rabbits. Tenants with smaller families should be encouraged to vacate big houses they no longer need. But the way to do that is by building more one and two-bedroom homes in the area and paying tenants a sweetener of, say, £1,000 to make the move. More carrot, less stick.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

SO EVERYONE was guilty but no-one is to blame. The "serious case review" into the death of four-year-old Daniel Pelka who was murdered by his mother and her partner in Coventry, says some professionals were "too optimistic" in believing Daniel's lying mother. We are told that "critical lessons" must be "translated into action". It all sounds hideously familiar. The beauty of a report like this is that it can be pulled off the shelf and used again, time after time for years to come, simply by changing the name of the dead child. A masterpiece.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

FREE school meals for all under-eights? Part of me rejoices at the prospect of millions of mums no longer having to worry about the next day's sandwiches. The other part of me fears that kids who were quite happy with sarnies will now be tearfully exposed to the latest theories on what constitutes a healthy meal. Anyone for tofu and broccoli surprise, kiddies? It is a curious thing but in the days when every state-school kid was raised on a shilling's worth of braised beef, mashed potatoes and stodge pudding, we were a lot thinner and a hell of a lot fitter than today's little sofa-slugs.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

INCIDENTALLY, when I use the word "mums" I of course mean all homemakers, in a non-gender-specific sort of way. You have to be so careful.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

MY ABIDING memory of school dinners (now renamed "school lunches" by the interfering middle classes) is of salads suddenly appearing on the menu with an accompanying bread roll. On day one, the rolls were dry. A pal and I, both aged 10, solved the problem by pouring salad cream on them. For this spark of initiative we were both whacked on the head by a teacher. Happiest days of your life.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

MONEY and justice do not mix. Thousands of motorists have been sent on speed awareness courses not because they posed any particular danger but because 'safety partnerships' signed contracts with the speed-awareness industry. The latest public-order brainwave is for police to arrest drunks and hand them over to private security companies who will put them in 'drunk tanks' and charge £400 to release them. So, in effect, there is a bounty on the head of every drunk. You see the danger? At worst, there is scope for police corruption, with officers taking backhanders for every person delivered. At best, expect a sudden redefinition of the term 'drunk' to include anyone smelling vaguely of alcohol, in order to keep the drunk tanks in business. And don't expect any sympathy from your fellow citizens. The same harrumphers who believe 32mph ought to be a hanging offence also believe that a quiet pint after work is rampant alcoholism. And they have the vote.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

AND would these drunk tanks, with all the attendant humiliation and publicity, be used for drunk-as-a-skunk politicians, the nobility, their offspring and so on? Or would the ruling elite be quietly taken home to sleep it off? What do you think?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Table turns attention to new recruits

THE Round Table is opening its doors to new members in the run up to winter with two offers for men in the Cannock and Penkridge areas.

It is offering two years' free membership for men under the age of 26 and six months' free membership for former or current members of the Armed Forces.

There is a Round Table for Cannock Chase and one for Penkridge and district. The organisation hopes the offers will encourage men to take up a new hobby and do something different in the evenings.

To make it easier for men to find out more about getting involved, the organisation has a dedicated email address – join@roundtable.org.uk – to obtain more information.

Round Table chief executive Cait Allen said: "We are delighted to offer two extra incentives for local men to boost their social life and make a difference to their community."

He added: "Round Table is all about trying new experiences and activities, making new friends and putting something back into the community. It's great that so many people have already joined Round Table this year – we've had more new members than previous years and we expect that to increase again during our busy season."

"We're welcoming anyone who's interested in getting involved to go along to their local table and see what it's all about."

To find out more about either table, including how to try an event, email or visit www.roundtable.co.uk/findoutmore The Round Table is open to men aged 18 to 45.

Breakfast meeting will serve up help for firms

A SURGERY to help businesses in Cannock find much-needed funding will take place in the town at the beginning of next month.

Cannock Chase District Council has organised the Open for Business Breakfast on behalf of the Business Development Programme (BDP).

It will highlight cash available for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) which have plans to expand and create jobs.

The programme provides match funding of up to £15,000 for established and eligible SMEs who are looking to increase their business.

Although it has passed the £1 million mark in grants and match funding, money is still available and the surgery, to be held at The Ramada Birmingham North Hotel Cannock, on Wednesday October 2, will help business owners find vital funding for their operations.

The programme, which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund, runs until June 2015.

Launched

Businesses must have been trading for more than six months and have expansion plans ready to implement that will safeguard existing jobs or create new ones.

The BDP has also launched a coaching and mentoring scheme and representatives will be available to talk through the programme.

The free event begins with breakfast and registration at 7.30am for an 8am start.

Apart from receiving information, attendees can net-work and get advice in one-to-one sessions, which can be pre-booked.

In addition to BDP, there will be information about other funding opportunities that the council can support businesses to access.

Councillor Gordon Alcott, economic development chief at the council, said: "Many businesses in Cannock still do not know that this funding is available to them, and the purpose of this event is to get the message across to as many eligible businesses as possible."

Places can be booked on 01543 464219 or email: econdev@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

MP hails jobs fair a great success

MP Aidan Burley and his assistant Jodie Jones Sport with Nichola Smith, left, and Stacey Oakes, from Allied Healthcare, look at the firm's application form during the jobs fair in Cannock

MORE than 400 jobseekers flocked to a jobs fair which has been hailed a massive success by organisers.

Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley said adverts for around 300 posts were posted at the fair in Cannock last Wednesday.

He said people had landed roles there and then and were starting in their new jobs as soon as today.

Around 30 local firms and organisations were at the event including Barclays Bank and Amazon.

Mr Burley said: "It was a great success. We had over 400 local jobseekers. People have literally gone straight into work as a result of the jobs fair.

"It's the fourth one I've organised in three years.

Future

"I meet lots of local people struggling to get into work. They want to work locally and this gives them the opportunity to do that."

Mr Burley confirmed he would be organising another jobs fair in the near future to get more local people into employment. Nicky Smith, from Cannock-based homecare provider Allied Healthcare, was at the event held in the Premier Suite at Bar Sport in the town centre.

The recruitment officer for the firm said: "There was a really good turnout and we were impressed by the candidates coming through the doors.

"We are continuously taking on people. We were looking to take on community care workers.

"We had about 20 people interested in working for us."

Call made for young to cast their vote

YOUNG people in the Cannock Chase area are being urged to vote in this year's UK Youth Parliament's annual Make your Mark ballot.

Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley and Megan Collins, the Lichfield and Cannock Chase Youth Member of the Parliament (YMP), have joined forces to to encourage young people to take part.

The five topics with the most votes from the shortlist of 15 will be debated by elected MYPs at a sitting at House of Commons chamber on November 15, chaired by The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House.

The MYPs will then vote to decide the most important issue to campaign on for the year ahead.

All young people in Cannock Chase aged 11 to 18 can vote online at http://mym.mi-vote.com by October 11.

Mr Burley said: "This ballot is a great way for all young people here in Cannock Chase to get directly involved."

Megan added: "I am honoured to be able to provide an opportunity for young people to have their say; it is necessary for youth parliament to empower every young person."

Dance to the songs of 40s

A CHARITY wartime tea dance and sing-a-long will give people the chance to step back in the 40s for an afternoon of fun in Chase Terrace.

Dress in your best 40s style and hear guest singer Ellyn Nicholls at St Johns Community Church, High Street, on Saturday between 2pm and 5pm

Tickets are £7 per person with all proceeds going to the Royal British Legion – Burntwood & District Branch. The price includes refreshments and photograph and there will be a prize draw. There will be a number of stalls. Tickets from Nancy Ennis on 07827 013787 or 01543 684887.

Dogs are rocking

MODERN indie rock band The Rock Dogs will be at Heath Hayes Cons Club on Saturday. They play covers from Kings of Leon, Stereophonics and the Rolling Stones among others. The show starts at 9pm and there is a late bar.

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Talent is needed for first show

A NEW Cannock production company is holding open auditions for its inaugural show, Like a Virgin by Gordon Steel, which will be staged at the Lichfield Garrick in January 2014.

Source Productions is auditioning for the four main roles on Sunday, October 6 at 1pm at Great Wyrley Senior Citizens Centre, Broad Meadow Lane, Great Wyrley.

It is looking for two girls with a playing age of 16 to 19 and a male and female with playing ages of 30 to35.

Harry Peake, director at Source Productions, said "We are looking for a talented cast of four to make this production something to remember.

"The production centres on Angela and Maxine and their dreams about becoming pop stars until a revelation about Angela changes the path of their lives forever.

"We are looking to make this play with music exceptional and act as a springboard for future projects."

He added: "The cast will also be working alongside a professional creative team including some choreography from Layton Williams currently appearing in Bad Education on BBC3."

Auditions need to be booked on a first come, first served basis by contacting harry.peake@yahoo.co.uk

Club sets up hooley night

A CANNOCK club will be enjoying the craic when it hosts its annual Irish Hooley night. St Mary's Social Club, Walsall Road, is holding the event on Saturday October 5.

Irish band The Craicers and the Birmingham Irish Pipes and Drums Band will be performing. Irish Dancers will also be showing off their moves as people tuck into a two course Irish meal and there will be an Irish Come Dancing competition.

Money will be donated to St Mary's Church funds. Tickets cost £15 and are available on 01543 572092 or 579364.

Cyclist injured

A CYCLIST was taken to hospital with a head injury after he fell off his bike in Rugeley. The man was found lying in Uttoxeter Road, Blithbury, by paramedics at 3.10am on Sunday. He suffered a head injury and was taken to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

Former Musically Yours shop on verge of sale

The queue outside Musically Yours shop

A MUSIC shop which closed in Cannock last year is on the verge of being sold.

Musically Yours is now under offer. The shop in Walsall Road had been trading for almost 30 years before it fell victim to the recession. It has a price tag of £225,000.

Boot & Co agent Jacky Lockett, who has been dealing with the sale, said: "It is now under offer. It's in the hands of the solicitors. They are dealing with it. Everything is running as smoothly as we'd like it to be."

She would not say who was in advanced talks to buy the shop unit but she said it was someone who wants to retain it as a shop. In March it was put up for auction with a £290,000 price tag but it failed to sell.

After the shop closed in May last year, the first floor was still used for music lessons, but teachers were told they had to search for new bases to hold their sessions.

Stock

Musically Yours had been a fixture in the town for 28 years. Bosses blamed the closure on the recession for a decline in trade.

A clearance sale of its stock took place with up to 75 per cent off all retail prices last September. They included guitars, ukeleles, violins, drums, cymbals and other percussion instruments. Amplifiers, microphones, speakers, portable pianos, keyboards and accordions were also sold off at a cut price.

Around 400 people queued from early in the morning for the clearance sale.

The queue stretched all along Walsall Road to the traffic lights as shoppers were attracted by the offer of bargains.

Cannock's town centre has seen mixed fortunes of late. Burton, Evans and Thorntons have gone but discount retailer B&M Stores opened at the old Lidl store in Church Street, creating 80 jobs.

Hospital nurse struck off over death of patient, 66

A NURSE who failed to identify a patient who died at Stafford Hospital was diabetic has been struck off while a colleague has been cautioned. Gillian Astbury, aged 66, of Hednesford, died in April 2007 after not receiving insulin.

by Rob Golledge

Stafford nurses Jeannette Coulson and Ann King were found guilty of misconduct by the Nursing and Midwifery Council panel.

King was struck off and Coulson was given a caution for a period of three years.

King was also found to have lied about having changed patients' dressings and giving them medication, while Coulson admitted swearing at staff.

The pair had failed to carry out blood-sugar level tests on Ms Astbury, the panel heard.

Failings

She was admitted to the hospital a week after suffering a stroke on April 1, 2007.

She did not receive insulin for 48 hours, and was discovered collapsed in a bed at 10.30pm on April 10.

The panel ruled that King needed to be struck off 'to protect the public'.

Ms Astbury's daughter Kate Beeson said: "While we are happy that the conclusion of the hearing draws a line under the case, whatever the ruling, nothing can bring my mother back, and nothing can truly reflect the severity of the nurses' negligence.

"We have been fighting for justice for several, very tiring years. Since her tragic death, I have been unable to put my mother to rest.

"The judgment, and all of the effort that has gone into getting to this stage, will be completely in vain if others in a similar position do not step out and make their voices heard.

"It is important that those responsible are brought to account and people need to speak up in order to make that happen."

Managerial failings which impacted on clinical standards on the ward, inappropriate use of language and the inadequate care given to the dying woman were all areas of concern.

The trust is facing prosecution over Ms Astbury's death under the Health and Safety at Work Act. It follows the Francis Inquiry into events at the hospital between 2005 and 2009 which uncovered a series of appalling care.

Neither nurse is working at the hospital and Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has apologised.

Colin Ovington, director of nursing at the trust, said: "Our thoughts remain with the family and friends of Gillian Astbury and we apologise for the appalling care Ms Astbury received."

Church ready for harvest dance

A RUGELEY church is staging a harvest dance next weekend. The Church of The Good Shepherd, Hislop Road, Pear Tree estate, is the venue on Saturday, October 5. It starts at 8pm, with a buffet included. Admission is £2.50. The church will hold a harvest Songs of Praise the next day from 6pm.

Leila to step out at 90 on charity walk

Karen Burrows, front left, with 90-year-old Leila Balance along with staff and other residents from Hammerwich Hall Residential and Care Home as they get ready for a Memory Walk in aid of the Alzheimer's Society

A 90-YEAR-old care home resident will step out to lead a fundraising walk tomorrow (Friday).

Leila Balance, who worked at the Bupa-run Hammerwich Hall when it was a children's home for disadvantaged boys, will share her memories of days gone by at the Memory Walk. Staff and residents will join her for the sponsored walk to help people with dementia. The Hammerwich Hall walk starts at 2.30pm and will raise money for vital research and care.

It forms part of the Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk initiative.

Shirley Gibbs, manager at the Burntwood Road care home, said: "We are all in the process of getting our walking boots (and sticks) at the ready.

"Memory Walk is a worthy cause for our local people to get involved with."

For more information or to register for an event call 0845 3060 898 or visit www.memorywalk.org.uk

NEWS in brief

Church window of opportunity

A CHURCH is hoping to clean up with a variety show this Saturday.

St James, Norton Canes, needs to raise £2,000 to have its windows, including a large stained glass one at the front for the Church Road building, cleaned.

It is halfway to the total and Mervyn Jones, who will be playing the organ during the show, said: "I hope everyone will back us so we can each our goal."

The other performers are Jack Williams on xylophone, the Black Country nightingale Beryl Briscoe and Welsh tenor Gareth Evans. Tickets cost £5 to include a buffet and can be bought from Mr Jones on 01543 279705 or on the door.

Flasher targets woman walker

A MAN indecently exposed himself to a woman as she walked her dogs at Cannock Chase.

She was walking between Pye Green Tower and Broadhurst Lane when he followed her to the main road at the Pottal Pool roundabout. he exposed himself then ran off in the incident at 10.20am on Thursday.

The man was white, aged in his 20s, and of stocky build. He wore a grey or black top with a hood hood covering his face and grey or black jogging bottoms.

Call Police on 101, quoting incident number 179 of 20 September.

Sheila to be cast away for funds

A RUGELEY woman will reveal some of her favourite tracks at a Desert Island Discs fundraiser.

Sheila Simpson will play the role of castaway at St John the Baptist Church, Slitting Mill on Friday, October 4, with Paul McCourt acting as MC. The event features a bring and share supper, with doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Proceeds go to church funds. Visitors are asked to bring their own drink.

Severn ramble

CHASE & District Group Ramblers will be going on an eight-mile easy to moderate walk in the Severn Valley from Arley, near Bewdley, this Sunday. Walkers should meet at Hednesford Rail Station car park, Anglesey Street, for a 9 am prompt departure. Contact walk leader Paul on 01922 414158.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

CANNOCK Chase Council is going to introduce a 'nominal' 10p-an-hour parking charge for certain car parks in Cannock and Rugeley in a bid to boost its ailing town centres.

The council says the lost revenue will cost the authority around £8,000, which represents around 8p for each of the district's 97,500 residents, so if it helps bring shoppers back into town, it will represent good value indeed.

But welcome though the move is, one wonders whether it kind of misses the point. The problem with car parking charges is not simply a question of finance, it is a matter of convenience, a matter of the sort of welcome that a town extends to its visitors.

It is the whole idea of councils imposing rules and regulations on the people they are supposed to serve, and dishing out punishments to those they consider to have fallen short.

Even with the new 'nominal' charges, shoppers will still need to fumble around for a 10p piece, they will need to know in advance how long they intend to stay, and they will have to affix a silly little piece of paper to their windscreens to avoid the watchful eye of the street patrols.

Presumably, if a 90 per cent cut in parking charges costs the council just £8,000, then it would cost just another £888.88 – less than a penny a head – to make parking charges completely free.

In fact, it would probably cost even less, as they would not need to employ anybody to empty the meters, not to mention those wonderful people dressed up like the cast of Dad's Army issuing the tickets.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

FORMER drug addict and mother-of-seven Cleo Embley, was jailed for 22 months after swindling the taxpayer out of £94,000 by claiming benefits she was not entitled to.

In mitigation, her barrister Mark Stuart told the court Embley 'knew she was going to have to pay the money back'.

And where was she going to find the money from for that, you might ask. Incredibly, she will continue to receive £237-a-week in Working Families Tax Credit.

So in other words, we will all spend the foreseeable future picking up the tab for repaying the money she stole from us in the first place. Isn't modern Britain just marvellous?

❑❑❑❑❑❑

MORE proof politicians really come from a different planet to the rest of us. Education Secretary Michael Gove says teenagers should give up 'sexting' and instead start posting each other love poems.

He quoted a verse that Napoleon sent to his lover Joséphine de Beauharnais as the sort of thing youngsters might like to send each other: "I hope before long to press you in my arms and shall shower on you a million burning kisses as under the equator." Or 'do u want 2 snog 2nite?' as it might appear on a teenager's phone.

Gerald Williscroft celebrating his 65th birthday

Gerald after being named Sportsman of the Year

Gerald Williscroft carries the Olympic torch

On road to glory for long-serving Gerald

Security guard is honoured by power station's name check after 50 years at work as he tells **LAURA BLYTH**

LONG-SERVING employees usually get a gold watch or a clock from their bosses to mark their years of hard work. Not Gerald Williscroft.

The 75-year-old security guard was stunned when a road at Rugeley Power Station where he works was named after him.

Now every time he patrols along Williscroft Way he is reminded of his 50 years of dedicated service.

The father-of-eight said: "I was honoured when the power station decided to name a road after me.

"It's the only road out of 15 throughout the site to carry a name.

"I was stunned when my bosses took me to the sign and asked me to cut the cardboard from it. I had no idea what they had been planning."

Mr Williscroft, who lives in John Till Close, was born and bred in Rugeley.

Split

He attended Prince of Wales School in the town and then Rugeley Secondary Modern Boys' School, leaving full-time education at the age of 15.

After leaving school he worked on a farm and then started work as a security officer for the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) based at Rugeley in March 1961 at the age of 23.

When CEGB split into two companies, National Power and Powergen, in 1993 he stopped working at the power station but returned two years later in 1995.

He added: "Rugeley Power Station is a good place to work, proven by the fact that several of its employees have completed 20, 30 and 40 years service. None have caught me up yet though.

"I've really enjoyed working at the power station mainly because of the people and the camaraderie."

Sign of the times . . . security guard Gerald Williscroft has had a road named after him after 50 years at Rugeley Power Station

Mr Williscroft recalled one or two memorable moments in his 50 years at the coal-fired power station. "I remember one Christmas morning getting a phone call from the engineer," he said.

"There was a man apparently playing the piano accordion. He was dressed in green trousers, a green top and green shoes. I think he was slightly drunk.

"I had to walk him off the grounds. Other times I've had to chase after people after they tried to break into the social club."

It has been an eventful 18 months for great grandfather-of-10.

In June last year he carried the Olympic torch through Wolverhampton and in May this year he was invited with his wife Iris to the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace.

"Following carrying the torch I received numerous phone calls asking me to go to functions invited with the torch," he said.

"At Easter this year, by request, I took the torch to Dubai for our hotel staff to have a photo with it and was pleasantly surprised when Sven Goran Eriksson, former England football manager, who was staying in the same hotel, agreed to have his photo taken with me and the torch and he congratulated me on being selected out of 70,000 nominees."

Mr Williscroft added: "My wife, Iris, and I received an invitation to the Queen's garden party, where we had a conversation with Prince Philip and Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nicholls. The icing on the cake came when I received this honour after 50 years service to Rugeley Power."

Mr Williscroft is a football referee in his spare time. "I have just started my 57th season in local amateur football, mainly refereeing," he said.

"But I have also been a club secretary and manager of Etching Hill Athletic FC; president of Rugeley Athletic FC and chairman of Rugeley Referees Association."

In 1975 he was named Cannock and District Council's Sportsman of the Year.

Mr Williscroft, who now works part-time, says he has no intention of retiring and will carry on for as long as he can.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A WOLVERHAMPTON rock band famed for using pyrotechnics in their act were forced to take action after blowing a hole in a stage. Members of The Smokin' Roadie group bought a second hand fire engine to take to gigs after the accident in Chasewater.

HUNDREDS of audiophiles from all over the country descended on Sandwell for the annual British Phonofair exhibition. Old and valuable gramophones, some dating back to the start of the century, were on display at the Teacher's Centre in Oldbury.

A BICYCLE-MAD postman from Wolverhampton was planning to open a museum in his attic after collecting 22 Victorian boneshakers in just over 18 months. John Bates, of Tettenhall, found most of his collection dumped in hedges or rusting away in gardens.

1993...

A VIKING invasion of Walsall took place to mark the start of the town's popular local history fair. But actors from the Longship Trading Company put on displays of family life and traditional crafts rather than looting and pillaging.

A LYE company was set to cash in on a wave of "Blobbymania" after securing a licence from the BBC to produce a range of Mr Blobby gift items. Alpha Marketing produced clocks and lunchboxes based on the character from the popular Noel's House Party programme.

A WALSALL man was named Grabatologist of the Year after amassing a collection of more than 5,000 ties. Tom Holmes of Pelsall was presented with the award by the Guild of British Tie Makers.

2003...

WOLVES owner Sir Jack Hayward put the club up for sale – for nothing. The owner prepared to write off his £40 million investment by handing over his 100 per cent stock holding for the promise of future team and club development by his successor.

A WOLVERHAMPTON man was reunited with a daughter he had not seen for 35 years and a granddaughter he had never met in an emotional get-together. Christopher Taylor met up with daughter Tracey Dwyer after she flew over from Australia.

A BLACK Country builder downed his chisel and sander and picked up a nail file after deciding his future was in the beauty business. Steve Woodhouse, from Dudley, worked in the building trade for three years before opening a nail salon in Wolverhampton city centre.

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NEWS

Gran June shows she has the qualities to be a star

GRANDMOTHER June Dawson is a star and she has an award to prove it.

The 70-year-old is the first recipient of Cannock Shopping Centre's Star Awards to help recognise unsung heroes in the community. It called out for members of the public to nominate a Star Grandparent.

Mrs Dawson, of Cleveland Drive, Chadsmoor,was presented with her engraved award after being nominated by her daughter Linzi Hill on behalf of her nine-year-old son, Max.

She said her mother has proved a pillar of strength for not only the family, but also for the local community.

Linzi said June regularly looks after Max, who has special needs and suffers from Attention Deficit Disorder.

Shocked

She will go out of her way to help anyone and will regularly go above and beyond the call of duty.

Mrs Dawson is a fundraiser for SNAP, a special needs adventure playground in Cannock which Max attends, and is also an avid crafter, creating beautiful items to sell in order to raise money for local schools.

She said: "I am so shocked I have won, what a wonderful surprise! I am extremely proud of my grandson, and it is he who inspires me to work as hard as I do.

"I would like to thank everyone for their amazing support and of course, to my family and grandson himself."

Centre manager Natal Chapman said: "It is an absolute pleasure to present June with this award.

"We all agree she sounds like a wonderful grandma and seems like a very lovely lady.

"Grandparents can sometimes be overlooked and we thought this award would be a nice way to recognise them."

June Dawson with daughter Linzi Hill, left, grandson Max Dawson and shopping Centre manager Natal Chapman, right, as she receives her award

The centre is now looking for a Young Sports Star.

If you, or somebody you know, has achieved great sporting success, overcome difficulties or done anything sports related that warrants hero status then email cannockstars@pmwcom.co.uk or write to Cannock Stars, C/o PMW Communications Ltd, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9HP with an explanation of why they should win. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, October 13.

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LETTERS

1D offer an insight into state of nation

HAVING dismissed Great Britain as a "small island no one pays attention to," Russian officials must have needed medical assistance to recover from the side-splitting response from the great comedian David Cameron.

Only a prize chump would ever dream of defending Great Britain in a slanging match by listing One Direction in any roll of honour.

If the best Great Britain can offer the world is a group of " Talent Show" failures will the last person out, please turn off the lights.

If anything One Direction are a symptom of most things wrong with Great Britain. A product of a new culture that wants instant fame without the hard work.

They do reflect modern day Britain I suppose. However, it is still a Britain where everyone can express an opinion freely unlike in Russia.

CHRIS FRANCE
Cannock

Families are at financial breaking point

GEORGE Osborne recently claimed that the ecomomy is turning the corner. But this is not so for many working class people and the unemployed.

The only corner they have been pushed into by the Con/Dems' arbitrary changes to worker rights and benefit cuts, is one of despair, falling living standards and poverty.

One million people are now on zero hour contracts. Nearly one and a half million are on part time work, and workers who lose their jobs are now having to wait four days longer before receiving benefits – forcing many of them into the embarrassing predicament of joining the lengthening queues at food banks.

Mr Osborne may have the support of the right wing press and huge corporate conglomerates to back his claim that the economy is turning. But the latest set of unemployment figures will not convince those on zero hour contracts and part time work that things are getting better, and unemployment in real terms is falling. The Con/Dems' attack on welfare dependants and worker rights is a disgrace .

The very tops in society have been allowed to enrich themselves from the economic crisis, while ordinary people have had to suffer cuts through no fault of their own. The cuts cannot be sustainable for much longer because lots of families are already at financial breaking point.

PAUL WITTON
Cannock

Miserable night that became memorable

FRIDAY the 13th of September was a wet and miserable night that was to become a very memorable one.

I had purchased two tickets (one for myself and one for a visiting friend) to attend the Rose Theatre in Rugeley for "Tribute to the Movies" presented by Rowlands Theatre Company.

The show was fantastic. There was a variety of sketches performed with enthusiasm and professionalism. The dance routines were well choreographed and performed excellently. The comedy sketches were hilarious and appreciated by the audience. Not forgetting the singers, be they soloist or backing singers every one gave their all.

Congratulations on the way the whole show was cleverly put together and directed. Not forgetting the staff backstage and the sound and lighting staff.

What value for money we had that night in comfortable surroundings. We will look forward to the Halloween show.

JANICE WEIGHTMAN
Brereton

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Fun time for children

I WOULD like to say thank you to Nicola and Sally at Rugeley library for the wonderful time we have spent at Crafty Caterpillars. Every Friday morning from 10 to 10.45 my two young children, aged three and two, and I, have enjoyed ourselves with singing songs, listening to stories and making something to do with the story. My children have got so much out of it. Thank you ladies. Keep up the good work.

E DAVIES, Rugeley

Priorities sorted by the police

NATIONAL figures tell us that the police force will be reduced to 2004 levels as we cannot afford to keep up numbers and pay the pensions.

Staffordshire Police is already cutting staff and the Manchester force admits it only investigates about 40 per cent of reported crimes. After the next cuts we shall be lucky if it is 20 per cent. Last year half a million calls to the police went unanswered nationwide.

It was very reassuring therefore to see on September 5 that Staffordshire Police and Trading Standards can spend time on a sting operation against Cannock pubs to see if they were checking youngsters' ages.

Jolly good. Let's catch these exploitative businesses, shut them down and put more people on the dole. Let's rejoice, we are sorting out priorities for the meagre few constables that are left to keep us safe. We can all rest easier in our beds.

GRAHAME WIGGIN
Heath Hayes

Improvements are a 'white elephant'

I WOULD Like just like to thank South Staffordshire Council for their white elephant regarding improvements on Station Street, Cheslyn Hay. Since the road has been improved we cannot park on Station Street anymore. We have to park streets away and some people have had their tyres slashed because of parking elsewhere due to a lack of spaces.

The bus stop has been moved but there is still a tailback when the bus stops due to the road being narrow. And four car parking spaces have been taken to put it there. I feel that the council has wasted public money on a wasted exercise and that a meeting should have been held with the residents.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Encouragement not criticism for our MP

A SHORT time ago we had a problem with the proposed removal of double yellow lines directly outside our property. We live in a narrow one way street and not all the residents had been notified.

We contacted Aidan Burley MP and expressed our concerns. Later we visited the highways planning department and were told Mr Burley had already contacted them on our behalf. A short while after the matter was resolved to a satisfactory conclusion. He works really hard for his constituents and deserves encouragement not criticism.

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NEWS

Builders lay foundation to win industry awards

TWO house builders have cemented the quality of their work by being named regional champions in the building industry's Pride in the Job Awards.

Geoff Hale, from Great Wyrley, won the small builder category for his site at 37-41 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock.

And site manager Daren Clark, of Cannock, won the large builder category for his Bluebell Croft site in Stoke-on-Trent.

The awards, run by the National House-Building Council (NHBC), are the most sought-after accolades in the industry and reward individual site managers who build high quality homes.

Mr Hale, aged 61, is owner of Firstpost Homes Ltd and a six-times winner of the regional finals and unbeaten since 2010.

He said: "I'm delighted to have won another award, not only for myself but for all the workforce who have contributed to this achievement."

Proud

Mr Clark, aged 44, of Taylor Wimpey North Midlands, said: "I enjoy working with and leading a team of people who want to achieve the best they can and completing homes that we are proud to hand over to our customers.

"I am extremely proud because it is a great honour to receive an NHBC award, as they are the most prestigious and set the benchmark for the industry."

He joined Mclean Homes, now part of Taylor Wimpey, as an apprentice carpenter aged 16, moving to site management at 20. He has won 17 Pride in the Job Awards, including taking the regional title in 2006.

The men received their awards at a ceremony held at the ICC in Birmingham. Peter Watton, NHBC regional director, described them as 'being at the top of their game'.

"The field of competition is huge, so winning is the definitive mark of success," he said. The two now go to Supreme Gala in London in January where the national winners will be announced.

Vets make a fist of challenge

387 Va-va-voom team members, from left, Hamish Duncan, Paige Stanley, Carole Parsons and Nicky Smith set to compete

FOUR members of a vets practice will be swapping their surgical scrubs and tunics for tracksuits and trainers to raise money for charity.

Hamish Duncan, senior partner at 387 Veterinary Centre, Great Wyrley, vet Carole Parsons, head nurse Nicky Smith and trainee nurse Paige Stanley will compete in the Vet Charity Challenge at Pershore College on Saturday.

As Team 387 Va-va-voom they will challenge other vet practices and veterinary professionals.

Team leader Carole said: "We're really excited about the challenge which will involve orienteering, kayaking and mountain-biking as well as having to strategise to negotiate the best way round the course.

"And our clients have been amazingly supportive. When we first embarked on the project, we thought £400 would be a realistic amount of sponsorship money to raise. However, people have already donated an astonishing £850, so we're now aiming to fundraise £1,000 for charity.

Jogging

"Every penny helps keep our spirits up during training, which has included geo caching on Cannock Chase, jogging round Chasewater and biking around the practice backroads."

All sponsor money goes Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Animals Asia and SPANA which supports the welfare of working animals worldwide. To make a donation, call at the surgery or visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/387vets

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NEWS

Suspended prison term for filming of sex attack

A FOREMAN who filmed and encouraged one of his workers as he carried out a sex attack in the street on an unconscious woman has been served with a suspended jail sentence.

Stephen Ball, of Littlewood Lane, Cheslyn Hay, was working as a foreman in charge of a pub refurbishment when he went on drunken night out with a colleague.

He egged on Richard Evans as he engaged in a sex act with the senseless victim, who was slumped against a wall with her eyes closed in Jubilee Square, Bideford, north Devon. Ball used his mobile phone to film it, Exeter Crown Court heard.

Ball admitted encouraging and assisting rape and was jailed for two years, suspended for two years, ordered to do 250 hours unpaid community work and pay £770 costs by Judge Francis Gilbert.

Witnessed

Evans, aged 37, of Dyas Avenue, Birmingham, admitted rape and was jailed for four-and-a-half years at an earlier hearing.

Ball, aged 39, was caught on town centre CCTV cameras as he laughed with his friend about the May 21 attack, which was witnessed by children and shop customers, said Miss Emily Pitts, prosecuting.

When police arrested him and Evan, he tried to delete the incriminating footage but it was recovered by experts and showed the whole assault, the court heard.

Mr Nigel Wraith, defending, said references showed Ball to be a hard-working man with no history of offending and an 'impeccable' character.

The hills are alive for pupils

Councillor Christine Mitchell with pupils of St Peter's Primary School and Cannock Chase District Council's countryside services officers

NEARLY 400 primary school children have been finding out Hednesford Hills at the 21st annual Heath Week Event.

The event, hosted by Cannock Chase District Council's countryside service at the Hills Local Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest was aimed to highlight the importance of preserving heathlands for wildlife and people.

Pupils from St Josephs, Gorsemoor, Heath Hayes, Hob Hill, Jerome, St Mary's, St Peter's and Moorhill Primary Schools took part.

Activities including traditional uses of heathland plants, singing heathland songs, domestic life of people living near heathland, including building a heathland house and a guided walk on Hednesford Hills to look at how the countryside services are managing our heathlands and a chance to meet the cows.

Each class was also given a teaching resource pack filled with information about how heaths came about, why they are rare and what is being done to conserve them.

Councillor Christine Mitchell, portfolio leader for culture and sport said "This event raises awareness of the wildlife resources we have on our doorstep and the importance of looking after it.

"Educating our young people is the key to safeguarding our heathlands for future generations."

Sequence dance held

A SEQUENCE dance in aid of The Alzheimer's Society is being staged in Rugeley. Lea Hall Social Club, in Sandy Lane, is the venue for the dance on Sunday, November 10, from 7.30 to 10.30pm. Admission is £2.50, payable on the door.

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Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and stake pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

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NEWS

New premises helps firm to go greener

Works foreman at Icon Exhibitions & Display Mark Farington is all smiles after the move to bigger premises

AN EXHIBITION design and construction company that secured European funding to expand has moved from Great Wyrley to Cannock to help it become leaner and greener.

Icon Exhibitions & Display Ltd received £15,000 from the European Regional Development Fund's Business Development Programme to move from its home of 12 years in Great Wyrley to larger premises at the start of this year.

The firm said its new home on Watling Street Business Park had made a huge difference to how it operates, improving its environmental responsibility credentials and allowing it to increase production efficiency. Icon Exhibitions designing, manufacturing and installing exhibition stands throughout the UK and overseas.

Streamlined

It has installed a spray booth and a wood waste burner, allowing the business to recycle the waste wood from production and turn it into fuel to heat the factory. As well cutting waste going to landfill, the burner also saves money on heating and waste disposal bills. The company has also set up recycling stations to recycle paper and other waste, and installed LED energy-efficient lighting solutions.

Managing director Wayne Ball said: "We're delighted with our new building. Having more space and everything under-one-roof has allowed us to work smarter and build in more streamlined processes. The extra space means we can invest in more equipment, allowing us to produce more in-house, which makes us even more competitive on price. As a result, we can further improve the services we offer."

Parking fees cut in a bid to boost the high street

PARKING charges will be slashed to a nominal 10p rate under plans to boost high streets in the three Chase towns.

The fee will come in for parking after 3pm on weekdays as part of a six month pilot in Cannock and Rugeley.

by Marion Brennan

The trial will run from this January to June at car parks in Avon Road, Cannock and Forge Road, Rugeley.

The new rate represents a 97 per cent reduction on current prices.

It will apply to drivers parking up at 3pm and leaving when the car parks close at 6.30pm.

The move, which was approved unanimously by Cannock Chase Council cabinet last week, comes with a prediction a £30,000 shortfall in parking income this year after revenue from across Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford dropped in the first four months of 2013.

Look

The trial is expected to lead to a further £8,000 loss in income.

Introducing free parking to boost the high streets was mooted in May and a committee was set up to look at the financial implications for the council.

A report to the cabinet showed some £89,077 was generated from car parks after 3pm on weekdays across the district during 2012/13, just over 12 per cent of the total £732,254 parking income.

Charges at Avon Road are 90p per hour, or £3.60 for three to four hours, while at Forge Road motorists pay 80p per hour or £3.20 for three to four hours.

Councillor Diane Todd, Portfolio Leader for Town Centre Regeneration said "We have listened to local traders and want to do all we can to help increase trade into our town centres.

Rugeley Traders' Association chairman Chris Green welcomed the move to slash parking charges saying it would boost the high streets.

Councillor Paul Snape, leader of the council's Conservative group criticised the delay in bringing in the change.

He said: "Why do they have to wait for the pilot to start until January?

"Both Cannock and Rugeley traders need the stimulus prior to Christmas not when people are all spent out in the post-Christmas period. No one knows how many traders may be hoping for a good Christmas to prevent them going to the wall."

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NEWS

Keeley runs in aid of diabetes research

Keeley Brookes will be taking part in the Bupa Great Birmingham Run for Diabetes UK

A CHASETOWN woman is running in the Bupa Great Birmingham Run for Diabetes UK to raise money for the charity. Keeley Brookes is a genetic research scientist at Manchester University and from her own work she knows how important it is that charities continue to fund research.

The money raised from the Bupa Great Run Series on October 20 will continue to support people diagnosed with diabetes, and enables Diabetes UK to further invest in pioneering research. Keeley, aged 32, chose to run for Diabetes UK as her mum, Anita Brookes, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was in her early 20s.

Now 66, she is suffering from several complications due to her condition, including poor eyesight and diabetic neuropathy which means she has lost much of the feeling in her legs.

"Because of my mum I have always known that diabetes is more than just watching what you eat and having an injection of insulin twice a day," Keeley said. "I always run for Diabetes UK to raise money to help them provide support, advice and real medical progress for people affected by the condition, and I hope that through research they can ultimately find a cure."

To sponsor her visit **http://www.justgiving.com/Keeley-Brookes**

Health chiefs to boost staff during winter

UP TO 40 temporary jobs are being advertised at Cannock Chase and Stafford hospitals to help cope with pressures over the winter.

It comes after a report commissioned by Stafford Borough Council strongly criticised proposals to strip services from Stafford Hospital.

by Kirsten Rawlins

As part of its winter planning, Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, which runs both hospitals, is investing in more nurses to staff the additional bed capacity that is opened every winter.

Support

The trust says it is looking for reliable and committed nurses who are passionate about delivering high standards of patient care.

There are 20 roles up for grabs for registered nurses and 20 jobs for healthcare support workers.

Colin Ovington, director of nursing at the trust, says while the posts have been developed to support the hospitals through the winter months, he hopes many of the roles will become permanent jobs. These vacancies are fantastic opportunities for nurses to come and join Mid Staffs," he said.

"These posts have been developed to support the trust through the winter months when further beds will be opened to support the needs of our patients.

"They will also cover current and potential future vacancies so we hope to be able to offer many successful applicants permanent jobs."

It comes in the wake of the 22-page council-commissioned report on the future of services at Stafford Hospital.

The document sets out opposition to removing maternity services, saying the alternative arrangements have not been 'properly set out or costed'.

Pigeon race fundraiser

PIGEON fanciers can help to raise funds for a Rugeley church this weekend. St. Augustine's is putting on a race night, using plastic pigeons, to raise money for church funds. It takes place in the church hall, in Station Road, at 7.30pm on Saturday (September 28). Entry is £2, 50p for children and there will be a prize for each race.

Historic signal box will be put on show at park

A SIGNAL box from the 1800s is to be displayed at a park after it was narrowly saved from the axe.

The Hednesford signal box was originally planned for demolition by Network Rail, but has been bought by three councils in a bid to salvage the town's heritage.

The box, built in the early 1870s and used since then on the Chase Line, will now be on display and open to the public at the newly-refurbished Hednesford Park.

A total of £30,000 had to be raised to save the historic box, £20,000 of which came from Staffordshire County Council. The remaining £10,000 was raised by Cannock Chase District and Hednesford Town Councils.

Leader of the district council George Adamson described the 38-lever box as 'a unique part of Hednesford's heritage'.

Unique

"Hundreds of these boxes have been lost," said Councillor Adamson.

"This is a unique part of Hednesford's heritage and something that will now be very much unique to Hednesford Park." The signal box will be located close to the pavilion and will be highly visible from the Rugeley road.

This is one of many improvements at Hednesford Park, as it is set for a full £3 million revamp.

Work on the park is set to be carried out over three years, subject to public consultation and planning permission.

The pavilion at the park will be refurbished, with the changing rooms retained and the main atrium converted into a cafe.

There are also plans to create a community room in the roof of the building.

Village tales retold in new history book

From left, Violet Leach, Mike Belcher, Sue Washington, Daz Butler, Joanne Barber, and, front Trevor McFarlane with the new book

A HISTORY group is to launch its latest book – Tales of Cheslyn Hay. It has been produced by Cheslyn Hay & District History Society, will be officially unveiled at an exhibition this weekend.

It will be the group's 15th annual display and takes place from 10am to 4pm at the village community centre in Pinfold Lane on Saturday (September 28).

The book is a 64-page publication, comprising pictures and village events from yesteryear. The group, which has more than 300 members, including ex-residents now living overseas, has produced 10 other books.

Its last, Cheslyn Hay Lives, ran to three volumes and society chairman Trevor McFarlane said: "People are always coming up with new information, which gives us the material for a book."

The book will be on sale for £5 at the free exhibition, which will have 900 photographs collated by the group, cemetery records and a Victorian house display. Refreshments will include biscuits made using Victorian recipes.

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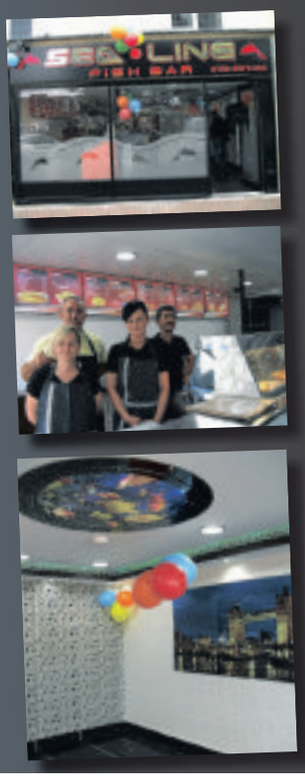

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GREEN DOG VAPING

NEWS

Quality of pub's ale wins place in good beer guide

A CANNOCK pub has been praised for the quality of its real ale in the Camra's Good Beer Guide 2014. The Linford Arms, Market Place, is listed in the latest copy of the book.

It was chosen to be included by members of the Cannock Camra branch. Local branch members chose the Wetherspoon's pub following regular visits to check on the quality of the real ales on offer. They also took into account customer service, décor and overall atmosphere.

Manager Andrew Johnston said: "I am delighted that The Linford Arms has been recognised for the quality of its real ales by CAMRA members. We offer our customers an excellent range of real ales at all times, including those from regional brewers and microbrewers, as well as hosting our own beer festivals. Staff at the pub work hard to ensure that the real ales on offer are kept in first-class condition."

Laura takes long leap to raise cash for charity

All smiles from Laura Gibson during her charity skydive

LAURA Gibson rose to the challenge when her charity skydive finally took place. The first one was due tp be from 10,000ft was postponed due to bad weather but when she returned earlier this month the plane took her up 15,000ft.

Laura Gibson

The 28-year-old, who is a nurse at Number 1 Vets in Rugeley, was raising cash for the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust, otherwise known as Alert.

Miss Gibson, originally from Burntwood, but now living in Lindon Drive Brownhills, said: "I did the skydive from 15,000ft instead of the planned 10,000ft as I got to go up in a faster plane which was an added bonus.

"The experience was fantastic and will definitely be looking into doing it again in the future."

She has already raised more than £700 for Alert and with sponsors still coming forward so the amount is ever increasing. Miss Gibson said: "Alert is a fantastic charity which helps to rehabilitate lions back into the wild.

"I was a volunteer for the organisation in Zimbabwe in 2010 and while there I was able to walk with cubs and watch lions to get them accustomed to the wilderness and noise."

She said she had always had a passion for lions after seeing them on television as a young girl.

She added: "My mum let me watch Born Free when I was young, which was about a couple who lived in Kenya with an adopted lioness and I think my love of lions stems from that.

"As a veterinary nurse I adore all animals but lions are my particular favourite and so for that reason I want to raise as much money as possible for Alert."

To sponsor Miss Gibson and to find out more about Alert visit www.doitforcharity.com/Laura-marie

Meeting for Spiritualists

ONE to one readings and tarot and angel card readings at Heath Hayes Spiritualist Church, The Cabin, Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes on Saturday from 10am to noon and 1pm to 4pm. The 30-minute readings cost £12. Appointments not always needed but recommended. Call Joyce Attwood on 07773 398492 or 01543 579755.

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CLUB NEWS

Women prisoners focus of meeting

CANNOCK SOROPTIMISTS

FIVE members of SI Cannock attended the Midland Chase Region, joining with members from the other 13 Clubs in the Region.

The focus of the day was the work being undertaken nationally by Soroptimist International in partnership with the Prison Reform Trust, looking at services available for female offenders in order to reduce unnecessary prison sentences for women.

One of the speakers was Jackie Russell, a director with Women's Breakout, a national charity which has within it 48 member organisations, all projects offering services to vulnerable and offending women.

Locally, the Women's Centre Chepstow House, a part of Brighter Futures, is a member organisation of Women's Breakout.

Jackie gave information which showed that the majority of women offenders in prisons – around 4,000 on any one day – are vulnerable women who have themselves been victims in one way or another.

She gave a clear picture of the need for support for these women and their children to lead positive lives and outlined the successes of many of the projects and services within Women's Breakout.

Members from SI Lichfield and Tamworth gave details of how, as a Region, Soroptimists could work with police, health, court services, social services and other agencies to obtain a full picture of the needs within our Region and the projects and services currently available.

Jackie Russell was among the speakers

Along with all other Regions in the UK, Midland Chase will be gathering information over the next few months to feed into a national report.

These will be used to further the development of services for women and, where appropriate, reduce the need for prison sentences for women.

Handiwork put on show

BONEY HAY AND CHASE TERRACE WI

THERE was an autumnal feel in the air this month, after a beautiful summer and almost everyone turned out for a special evening to celebrate harvest.

The president welcomed a number of visitors and after the singing of Jerusalem, everyone settled down to relax and chat before enjoying some of the food which had been prepared. Members had been asked to bring either a sweet or savoury dish, resulting in a variety of tasty morsels.

A plant stall was popular and there was also a variety of garden produce for sale, the usual raffle did well and a raffle for a large basket of produce, donated by one of the members was well supported.

This month there was a craft table for members to exhibit their work, somewhat different from the usual meeting but thoroughly enjoyable.

Speaker next month is Sue Robinson on sugarcraft.

Cake and wine for birthdays

BURNTWOOD WI

THERE were more special birthday celebrations to celebrate with Colleen Blake's 60th and Ann Bates' 70th so cake and wine was enjoyed by all.

After the minutes were read and County News reported, the group settled back to listen to Carolyn Parkes talking about her experiences living with the Dionka Tribe.

Carolyn was contacted by Tear Fund to go out to the Sudan to help with the medical services.

It was a very different environment to what she had been used to here.

As the first white person to visit the village which has the second largest tribe in the world she was received like a celebrity.

Carolyn's accommodation was a green tent that she shared with another girl and also many villagers and goats in the rainy season.

The days were very long and busy with Carolyn seeing up to 200 patients a day!

The competition for the month was a flower arrangement in a jam jar, won by Margaret Copland.

The October meeting is members' night – where the committee can sit back and enjoy not having to do anything.

The Group Meeting will be hosted by Boney Hay and Chase Terrace at St John's Church on October 15.

Ron closed the meeting with her thought for the month.

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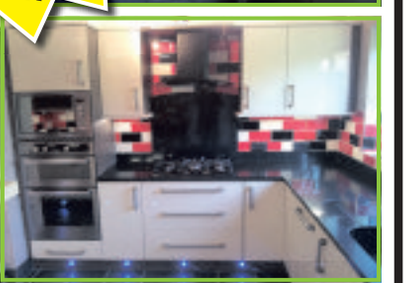

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COMPETITION

Win tickets to see Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular

Enjoy the sounds of the Rat Packvegas Spectacular at the Prince of Wales Centre on October 13

FANS of Martin, Sinatra and Davis Jr can relive the sounds of the Rat Pack at Cannock's Prince of Wales Centre next month – and *The Chronicle* has tickets to give away.

Known as the Purveyors of Cool, they swing into action at the Church Street venue on Sunday, October 13 for the Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular.

Show founder and producer Wayne Kennedy plays Dean Martin, with Roman Marek as Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr portrayed by James Jr. Performing alongside them is a troupe of Vegas Showgirls, accompanied by an orchestra.

Remarkable

The fabulous production continues to be successful all over the world and features classics such as Mr Bojangles, Mack The Knife, Come Fly With Me, That' s Amore and Lady is a Tramp, all performed totally live.

The BBC summed up the show in just one word: 'Magnificent', while it was described as superb, remarkable and tremendously entertaining' by The Stage. Showtime in Cannock is 7.30pm with tickets priced at £20.

Call the box office on 01543 578762 or book online at **www.wlct.org**

To stand a chance of winning one of three pairs of tickets, simply complete the name of this hit, Lady Is A . . .

Send your answer, on a postcard, with your name, address and a daytime phone number to: Rat Pack competition, Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. The closing date for entries is Thursday, October 3.

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Ward End Library
Washwood Heath Road, Birmingham B8 2HF
Thurs 3 October, 10am – 2pm

Fazeley Studios
191 Fazeley Street, Digbeth B5 5SE
Thurs 3 October, 4pm – 8pm

The Link
4 New Road, Water Orton, Birmingham B46 1QU
Sat 5 October, 10am – 5pm

Hints Village Hall
School Lane, Hints,Tamworth B78 3DN
Mon 7 October, 12pm – 8pm

Middleton Recreation Room
Church Lane, Middleton, Tamworth B78 2AL
Tues 8 October, 12pm – 8pm

The Loft at the Bluebell Centre
West Mall (above Asda), Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre, Chelmsley Wood B37 5TN
Thurs 24 October, 12pm – 8pm

The Sanctuary
Tangmere Drive, Castle Vale B35 7PX
Mon 28 October, 10am – 2pm

Firs and Bromford Sports and Community Centre
Cameronian Croft, Birmingham B36 8UB
Mon 28 October, 4pm – 8pm

Guildhall
Bore Street, Lichfield WS13 6LX
Weds 30 October, 12pm – 8pm

For a full list of these events and for more information about the consultation visit: **www.hs2.org.uk** or call **020 7944 4908**

There are separate events taking place for the consultation on the HS2 route from the West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond. Please check the website for details of these events.

This consultation closes on Wednesday 04 December 2013

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NEWS

£5k delivery made by firm to hospice

A FIRM in Cannock has donated £5,000 to a children's hospice in Walsall.

Parcel giant APC Overnight raised the money during it recent all-depot meeting.

Representatives from the company's 115 depots its new £15 million national sortation centre at Kingswood Lakeside Business Park.

Sally Insley, community fundraising manager for Acorns, said: "We've been working with APC Overnight for a number of years now and they have so far raised in excess of £14,000.

"We rely largely on voluntary income to keep our hospices running, so when local companies like APC Overnight decide to partner with us it makes a huge difference."

The £5,000 will be used to help provide palliative care to the 2,000 children in the region living with life-limiting or threatening conditions, and support for their families.

Head of sales and marketing at APC, Tara Barnes, added: "Acorns does fantastic work for children and families throughout the Black Country and we're proud to have them as our charity partner. We're looking forward to raising even more money for the hospice in the future."

Delight for dentist as practice hits 25 years

Carolyn Jones with staff members, from left, Dawn Everitt, Sarah Reynolds and Rebecca Woodward

DENTIST Carolyn Jones will be extracting most of her celebrations next week when her Cheslyn Hay practice reaches its 25th birthday. She will be holding a party for her 10 members of staff on the anniversary, Tuesday, October 1.

"I have reached an incredible milestone in my business and professional life achieving 25 years of trading," Dr Jones, aged 54, said. "It has been an incredibly happy and enjoyable time for me, both building the practice up from nothing, into what it is today, and more importantly in forming some very rewarding and long term relationships with all of my patients and valued staff."

She started the Carolyn Jones Dental Practice in the High Street in 1988 after working in Cannock and Newport for five years.

Commitment

"I realise that some of these patients and their families have been coming here for the entirety of that time," she said. "I feel very privileged to have been allowed to treat them and for them putting their trust in me. It has been a real pleasure and one that I will always cherish."

She thanked them and her 'enormously dedicated' staff. One, Sarah Reynolds, has been with her for 16 years. Dr Jones said: "The hours and commitment and the ceaseless challenges that you have all coped with do not go unnoticed."

The dentist, who has two children, lives in Cheslyn Hay. Her practice has been a sponsor the football team of the village pub, The Colliers Arms.

Cakes and coffee appeal support

CUSTOMERS are being encouraged to dig deep and enjoy a sweet treat at Dobbies Garden Centre, Gailey,, to celebrate its involvement in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning, tomorrow (Friday).

The centre will be up against the clock to sell as many specially-baked Macmillan themed cupcakes as possible in just eight hours.

Selling for a sweet £1, all proceeds will go directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Annabel Lewis, the centre's community champion, said: We look forward to welcoming hundreds of customers along and we're confident they'll have a sweet time!"

Betta Living in Cannock is switching on the kettle on and putting its showroom kitchens to good use as it hosts a weekend of fundraising to raise money for the appeal.

Its showroom on the Orbital Retail Park will be serving coffee and cake from 9.30am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to give everyone visiting the store the chance to get involved in activity and make a donation.

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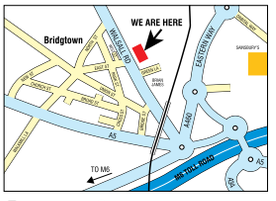

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NEWS

Historian posts plea to solve mystery

The mystery picture dating back to around 1939 at Pinfold Lane School, Cheslyn Hay, that was found recently

POSTAL workers have enlisted the help of Cheslyn Hay historian over a mystery picture dating back more than seven decades.

The picture, taken in about in 1939 at Pinfold Lane School in the village, turned up at Cannock sorting office.

It had become detached from its envelope, so postal workers had no idea where it should be sent. They turned to Trevor McFarlane, chairman of the Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society, who is now calling on *Chronicle* readers to help shed some light on the issue

Mr McFarlane said: "It had been poorly wrapped and the envelope and photograph had been separated and the post office is keen to know where it should be delivered to."

Those featured on the photo include Gwen Porter, Daphne Wilcox, Jean Osbourne, Margaret Day, Kathleen Preece, Edith Baker, Marjorie Stanley, Doreen Hewitt, Mary Scott, Violet Lockett and Barbara Hawkins.

Anyone that recognises the picture, or has any further details, is asked to call *The Chronicle* on 01543 465304 or Trevor McFarlane on 01922 414772.

Brick requests demand

WORK to add miners' names to a bricks at a Hednesford memorial should get under way in November.

Chase Arts in Public Spaces (Chaps), the body behind the scheme, said the number of requests for named bricks had far exceeded expectations at more than 900.

"Chaps have been overwhelmed by the response for named bricks to be added to the memorial," a spokesman said. "This will result in a slight delay of the work commencing on site. It is hoped that the contract will now proceed in November."

A dedication is planned for April or May next year to coincide with the anniversary of the Phase 2 dedication. Former Bishop of Manchester Nigel McCulloch, who led the last service, has again been approached to perform the role.

Drummer is remembered

THE Charlatans have announced plans to host a one-off charity concert in memory of drummer Jon Brookes.

The band will play London's Royal Albert Hall in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity on October 18. The musician, from Burntwood, died last month aged 44. More than 200 mourners attended Brookes' funeral at Christ Church.

A statement released by the band said: "Following the loss of our much missed friend and drummer, Jon Brookes, we, together with some friends, are putting on a show at the Royal Albert Hall.

"The show will benefit The Brain Tumour Charity, which Jon was involved with during his illness. It's our way of raising money for research into and awareness of a cancer that will unfortunately affect many lives as it has ours."

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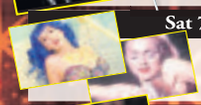
Thurs 5th & Fri 6th December
The Blues Brothers Christmas Show
Live Band & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.



Sat 7th December
Madonna & Katy Perry Christmas Party
SOLD OUT!!
Live Tribute & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Wed 11th December Robbie Williams, Tom Jones, Elton Jones, Elvis.
The 'Absolute Legends' Show.
Live Band & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Thurs 12th December
Bootleg ABBA The UK's Greatest ABBA Tribute
Live Band & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Fri 13th December
SOLD OUT!!
The Marks Brothers, Soul & Party Band
The Hunks Of Soul! Live Band & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal,Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Sat 14th December
'George Michael' Christmas Show
Live Tribute & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Sun 15th December
Our Christmas family Sunday Lunch
Santa Claus, Choir, Carol Singing & Magician. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Festive Party Package.

Mon 16th December
Greek Christmas Party Night
With Singer Nicos the Greek, Belly Dancer with Snake & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

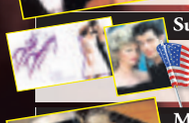
Tue 17th December
Bier Keller Christmas Party Night
Live Oompah Bier Keller Band & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Wed 18th December
Rang-A-Tang Christmas Party
Live Band & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Thurs 19th December
'QUEEN Alive' Christmas Show
Live Band & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Fri 20th December
'Tom Jones' Christmas Show
Live Tribute & Party DJ. Complete with Christmas Meal, Welcome Drink & Free Wine.

Sat 21st December
Sun 22nd December
BOOK EARLY
The Annual Christmas Ball
Black Tie & Evening Dress. Champagne Reception. Complete with Live Band **Rang 'a' Tang** & Party DJ, Sumptuous 6 Course Meal.



Sun 22nd December The Stage Show
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Mon 23rd December
Irish Christmas Party Night
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Tue 31st December
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NEWS

Overnight closure of M6 slip roads to allow work

WORKS on the motorway will see closures over coming weeks, with diversions in place.

Repairs are being carried out to the carriageway at junction 11 for Cheslyn Hay on the M6. The northbound carriageway and southbound entry slip road will now be closed overnight until October 21 between 8pm and 6am.

Works are also being carried out between junctions 10 and seven, which will see the southbound carriageway closed overnight until October 1.

There will also be closures between these junctions until Sunday between 10pm and 8am.

Meanwhile, the southbound carriageway will be closed between junctions 15 for Stoke-on-Trent and 14 for Stafford North between 9pm and 5am until Wednesday.

Carriageway works between junctions 10 for Walsall and 10a for Essington will see the carriageway closed overnight from 10pm to 6pm in both directions, including the M54 slip roads, until October 1.

The southbound carriageway between junctions eight and nine will be closed overnight to allow for works from today until November 15.

Resurfacing works, meanwhile, will see the A5 at Churchbridge closed 9.30pm to 5.30am until October 7.

Free fun for young

THE Victory Christian Centre, Anson Street, Rugeley, is hosting free activities featuring children's entertainer Paul Willmott on Saturday betwen 10am and 2pm. Paul is skilled at telling stories using music and puppets. Parents are invited to register their child/children promptly at 10am and provide each child with a labelled pack lunch. Free drinks and biscuits will be provided during the morning and each child will receive a free gift at the end of the day. All activity leaders have a full CRB check.

Pitmen score with store deal

Wickes store manager Richard Harding, Scott Smith, of Hednesford Town, and Wickes merchandise manager Jimmy Adams

HEDNESFORD Town has cemented a partnership with Cannock DIY store Wickes. They have united to spread the word about the table-topping Pitmen and the store.

The club receives a 50 per cent discount on items bought for maintenance at its Keys Park ground.

It can also advertise matches and other events on the Lichfield Road store's community board.

In return, Wickes Cannock have been given an advertising board around the edge of the pitch and will also an advert in every programme for this season. Scott Smith, from Hednesford Town said: "I feel that this kind of link-up is of great use to both parties.

"Not only do we get the benefit of being able to purchase much-needed materials in order to keep Keys Park up to the highest standards possible, but Wickes is also being advertised to our supporters as the main DIY store to use in the Cannock area."

Store manager Richard Harding said: "It's great to have this relationship with Hednesford Town.

"We hope we can help with raising the profile of the club and get more of our customers to attend games."

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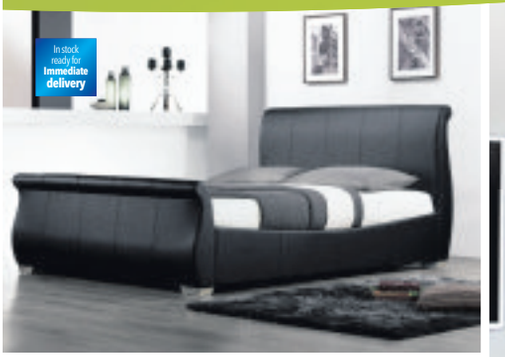

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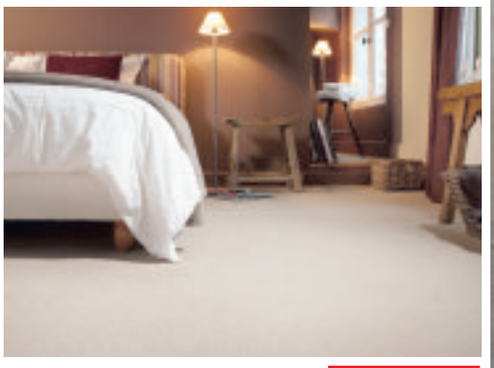

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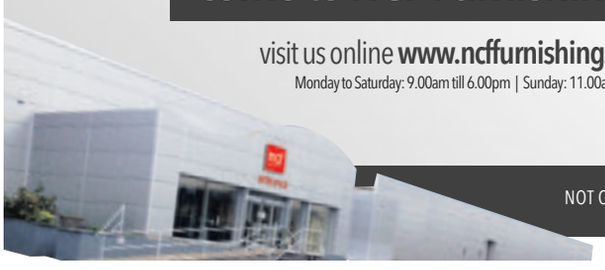

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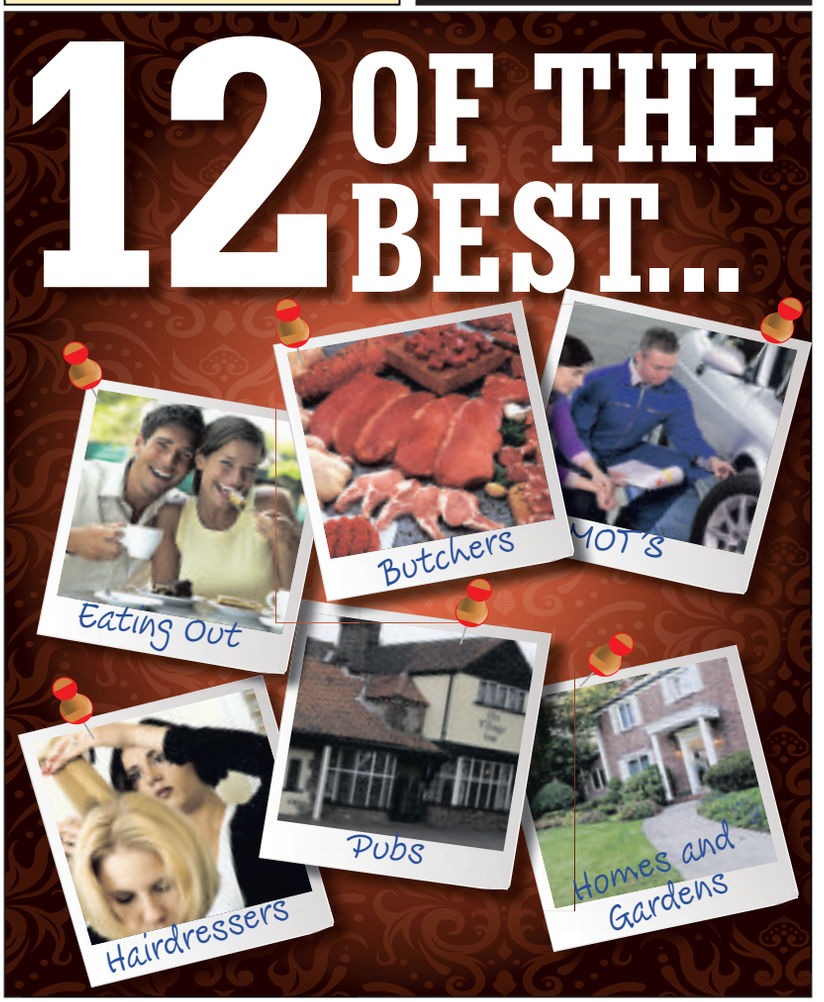

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NEWS

Stephen reaches £100,000 target with Scholars' help

Stephen Sutton, second right, received a cheque from Janice Bookes, John Franklin, Trevor Youngman, Chris Wadham and Nigel Southall to rearch his £100,000 target

STEPHEN Sutton reached his goal of raising £100,000 for The Teenage Cancer Trust at Chasetown Football Club last Saturday when he was presented with a cheque for £4,120.

The Burntwood teenager, who has incurable cancer, set himself the challenge as one of his bucket list of things to do before he dies.

Some of the cash was raised with a Football Fun Day in May when many of the Chasetown team that played Oldham Athletic in the historic FA Cup First Round tie in 2005 put their boots on for the first time in many years to play the Chasetown team that fought so valiantly against Cardiff City in the memorable FA Cup Third Round tie in 2008.

The rest came when a West Bromwich Albion former players XI played Brownhills and Shire Oak, the two teams Stephen played for before illness curtailed his sporting activity, plus other activities at the ground over the summer.

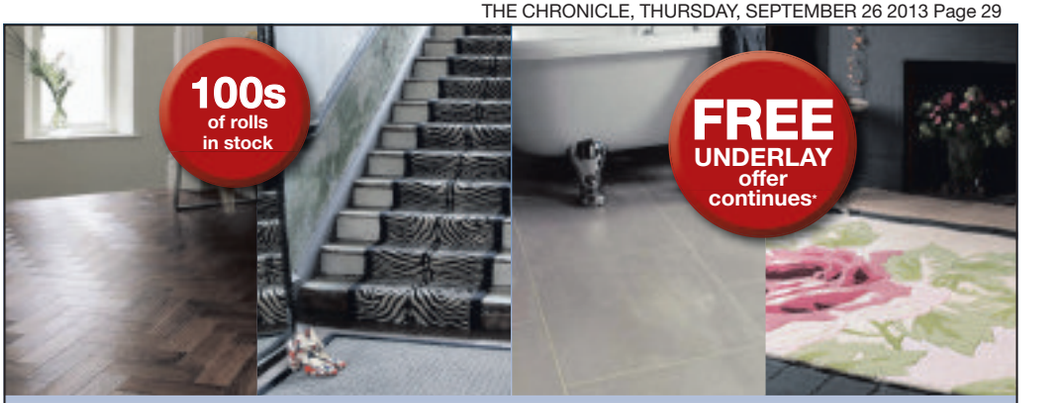
Chasetown CEO Mike Joiner said: "As soon as we knew number eight on Stephen's bucket list of things to do to raise funds for The Teenage Cancer Trust was to organise a charity football match, we readily made the Scholars ground available to him, knowing that our admin staff and Supporters Club committee would be there to provide Stephen with whatever help he would need to organise the day and maximise the revenue from it.

"We do regard ourselves as an integral part of the local community and were only too pleased to have been able to help raise such a wonderful sum for Stephen's charity, a sum everyone involved with the event should be proud to have reached, particularly as the cash raised with the Football Fun Day at Chasetown took Stephen through his £100,000 fund raising target."

Moves

Having reached his goal, Stephen does not stop his fundraising activities. He just moves the goalposts and ups the target to £150,000.

You can see Stephen's latest fundraising events on Facebook Stephens Story and help him to reach his revised target figure by joining in his activities or making a donation at www.justgiving.com/stephen-sutton-tct



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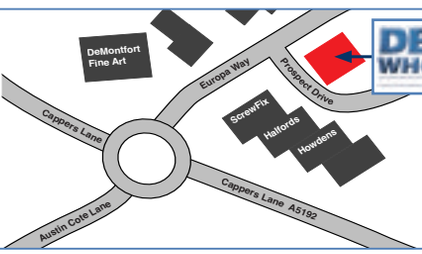

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Put brake on £500k revamp of our roads, says councillor

A PROPOSED £500,000 revamp of major roads in Rugeley needs to be reconsidered, a town councillor has said.

Staffordshire County Council is proposing to reduce Horse Fair to a single carriageway as part of a bid to make the town pedestrian friendly. Rugeley Town Council vice-chairman Mick Grocott said more discussions had to be held over the scheme.

by Kirsten Rawlins

He said: "I am not saying that I am for or against any changes, I just think we should look at this again.

"We very much welcome £500,000 to be spent on Rugeley but we want to make sure it is something that everyone in the town wants. We want to avoid this being a costly mistake.

"Not many people knew about this so hopefully given more time will let more people have their say."

Town traders reacted angrily to the plans when they were announced.

Ignored

Estate agent Angi Cooney, vice-president of the Rugeley Traders Association, felt she and others had been ignored.

She said: "We had a letter on August 19 to say there was a meeting on the 21st. I think it has been very quickly rushed through and the lack of consultation is frightening. This is a huge thing and we are not being listened to."

The plans will also see traffic signals at St Paul's Road and at the railway arches on Wharf Road replaced with roundabouts.

Work could start as soon as October.

At a consultation meeting, residents could view a simulation of how the plans would work during peak traffic.

County councillor Mark Winnington, cabinet member for economy and infrastructure at Staffordshire County Council, said: "We understand there will be varied opinions and we want to take everyone's views on board.

"We are working with people who live and work in the town to make sure we get it right."

Around 200 people went to the public consultation in the town last month.

Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley called for the plans to be put on hold or shelved altogether.

He said: "The plan as it stands is flawed."

Foodbank aid proves big success

RESIDENTS in Rugeley have been praised for giving a helping hand to the needy in the town.

Writing in the Brereton and Rugeley Links magazine, Foodbank co-ordinator Dave Webb said the scheme had proved a huge success during its first 15 months.

More than 9,000kg has been collected in that time, with more than 6,800kg given out to 759 beneficiaries, including 281 children.

Mr Webb said: "Our key achievement since opening has been engaging the whole community in providing food for local people going hungry.

"This has only been possible because of the generosity of the community of Rugeley and the surrounding areas."

Fifteen churches have signed up and groups and individuals donate non-perishable food to the foodbank.

Food has come from people giving from their weekly shop, while collections are undertaken at Aldi and Morrisons.

The number of professional agencies holding vouchers and referring needy clients has increased, while the Foodbank has also employed a low risk offender on unpaid community work as a volunteer.

Carers' service

THE annual St Lukestide Service for carers will be on Thursday, October 17, from 7.30pm at St Augustine's Church, Rugeley. Groups, organisations and individual carers are welcome.

Kirk shows golfing prowess to take title

Kirk Jones shows off the trophy after winning the Club Championship at Lakeside Golf Club, Rugeley

A GOLF enthusiast teed off to win a major club championship.

Kirk Jones won the Lakeside Players Cup, held at the club located within the sights of the Rugeley Power Station. Kirk, of Phoenix Drive, Rugeley, said he was 'shocked, but very pleased' to have picked up the trophy.

He started playing the sport at the age of 14, and previously tasted success in 2002 with a tournament win at neighbouring St Thomas's Priory Golf Club.

Chocolate, wine and pampering

A PAMPER night for ladies is being held at a Rugeley church next month.

A glass of wine and chocolate fountain is included in the £3 admission price to he Church of the Holy Spirit on Thursday, October 24.

It runs from 7-10pm at the church in Church Lane, Etching Hill and will include taster sessions on hand or arm massage and mini-manicure. Some treatments will incur a small cost.

Beauty and aromatherapy products will be on sale. More details are available on 07594 389169.

Entertaining series starts

THE history of entertainment, from travelling cinema shows to silent movies, is the subject of a new community course, which began this week.

The Landor Society, a Rugeley-based local history group, is hosting the course at St Paul's Church, Rugeley, on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It started last night (September 25). Call 01889 576674.

Time for coffee

THE next regular coffee morning at a Rugeley church takes place on October 2. They are on the first Wednesday of the month St John's Church, Slitting Mill, from 10.30am. Cost is £1.50 to include coffee, biscuits and cake. There is also a raffle and bric-a-brac sale.

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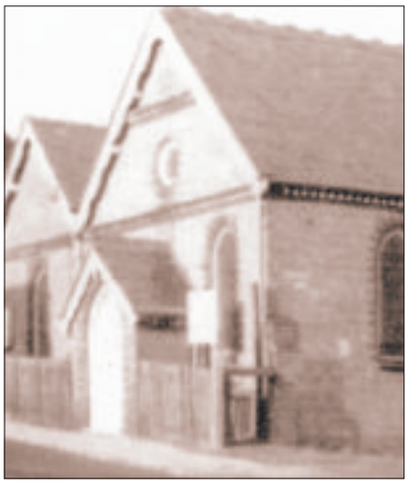
The plaque with the Latin inscription above the chemist's in Hednesford

A History of Hednesford

A 1933 Sunday School service from the shortlived and ill-fated St Mark's Church, Pye Green

Blue Pump hunt draws a blank



Bradbury Lane Wesleyan Chapel features in the book

ONE of the great Hednesford mysteries, that of the Blue Pump, is still unsolved more than seven decades since its demolition.

by Kim Virk

Despite extensive research, it is one of the town's little posers for which no definitive answer has been found.

In his book, a History of Hednesford and Surrounding Areas, author Tony Hunt tries to unravel the puzzle

The Blue Pump was situated in Uxbridge Street, almost opposite Our Lady of Lourdes Church and stood at the site of the present day Uxbridge Court buildings.

According to Mr Hunt, a historian and former teacher, the Blue Pump was one of the oldest houses in Hednesford until it was razed in the 1930s.

Popular legend suggests it was once a pub and that the infamous highwayman Dick Turpin stayed there.

It is also rumoured a tunnel from the Blue Pump to Lichfield Cathedral was used as an escape route for criminals.

Discovering the building's history is hampered as it does not appear on any Census report, although on the Tithe Map the area in 1841 it was labelled as "House, building, garden and croft".

The actual name Blue Pump only begins to appear after 1880 on the Ordnance Survey Maps. However it is clear that the house belonged to the Lord family of racehorse trainers.

What happened to the building after Samuel Lord died in 1857 is unclear.

Mr Hunt reports it could have continued as stables under former stablemate James Dover but he left Hednesford in the 1860s.

Census reports in the 1870s and 1880s have no mention of it having become an inn.

The Ordnance Survey Map of 1886 first comes up with the name Blue Pump, but the Census of both 1891 and 1901 fail to mention it at all.

According to Mr Hunt, the Blue Pump must have been a pub at some stage.

A Thomas Higgs claimed he lived there in the 1920s and a Douglas Cowdle remembers his brother courting the landlord's daughter in the 1930s.

Deepens

The mystery deepens, however, as the Staffordshire Directories from 1930-36 lists all commercial buildings and has no mention of the Blue Pump.

The chapter also looks at how the Brindley Heath area came to be known, the short-lived history of St Mark's Church, Pye Green, and the story behind a plaque above a chemist's in the town with a Latin inscription of the Order of the Garter's motto.

Centre of the mystery – the Blue Pump in Uxbridge Street, Hednesford

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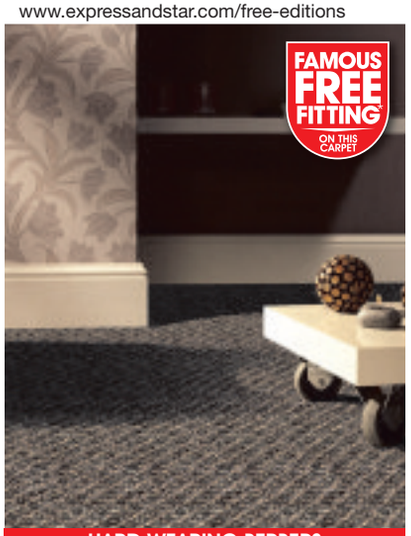

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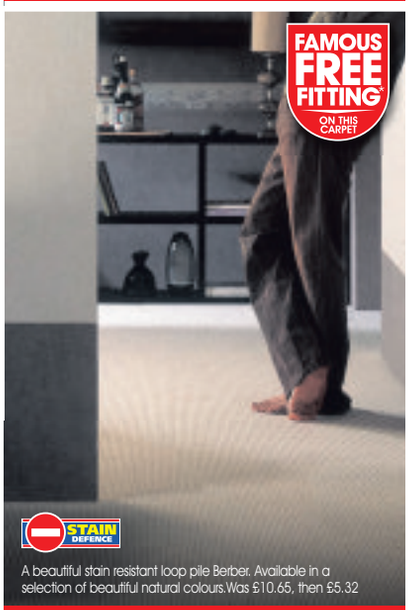

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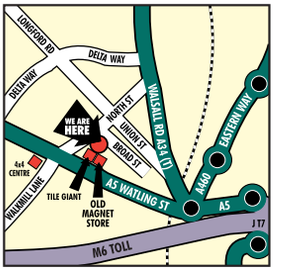

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Property

Detached house has mature rear garden

£220,00 price tag for this three bedroom house

THIS three bedroom detached house in Hilton Lane, Great Wyrley, is on the market for £220,000 through Dixons Estate Agents. It has double glazing and gas central heating both where specified.

There is an entrance porch, entrance hall, extended lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room and garage. On the first floor, three bedroom and family bathroom.

There is ample-off road parking and a garage. A well matured enclosed rear garden has a patio area and landscaped garden

The lounge has double glazed bay window to the front, radiator, coving to the ceiling and marble effect hearth housing a living flame gas fire. Living/dining room has sliding patio double glazed doors to the rear,.

Kitchen has a range of wall-mounted cupboards and base units, wine rack, work surfaces incorporating a Belfast sink, integrated electric oven and gas hob, integrated fridge, and plumbing for washing machine.

Mid-terrace home with two bedrooms

Dixons Estate Agent is selling this modern house

A MODERN two bed mid terrace property in Oakridge Drive, Cheslyn Hay is being sold through Dixons Estate Agents for £120,000.

An entrance hall lead to lounge and kitchen. Upstairs are two double bedrooms and refitted bathroom.

The house has double glazing, off-road parking for two car and a rear garden. It has gated access to side, giving access to front via alleyway.

The kitchen is 9ft 5in by 7ft10in and has range of wall and base units, roll top work surfaces over and space for appliances. The lounge is 16ft by 11ft 6in with French windows to rear and stairs to first floor.

Upstairs the landing has access to the loft. The smaller bedroom has range of fitted wardrobes with sliding mirrored doors.

Bathroom has a white suite comprising panelled bath with shower over, wash hand basin, low level WC and a shower area.

Estate agents offers 'unbeatable commission'

LEADING Cannock estate agents DB Roberts has launched what it say is an unbeatable commission offer to attract more homes onto their books to meet increased demand.

Announcing the new 0.75 per cent no-sale, no-charge commission package, sales director Jo Culley said the company believed the property market has turned.

"We have just had our best July and August since 2008, with August sales levels higher than April," she said. "All nine of our branches need to list additional houses to meet continuing demand, as September shows every sign of being another busy month.

"We have therefore put together a sales and marketing package which includes all the great features offered by DB Roberts at an unbeatable 0.75 per cent commission charge."

The offer, which is limited to the first 100 instructions, includes professional photography plus an interactive 3D floor plan, and listing on Rightmove and Zoopla until the property is sold.

She added: "We are available from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and extended hours at weekends and, of course, we advertise weekly in the local press while our own website www.dbroberts.co.uk has recently been completely redesigned.

"We believe no other agent can match this deal on a like for like basis, so we are expecting a huge amount of interest from sellers."

Cannock area manager Dawn Dickinson urged prospective sellers not to delay. "This could be the best commission offer we have ever made," she said.

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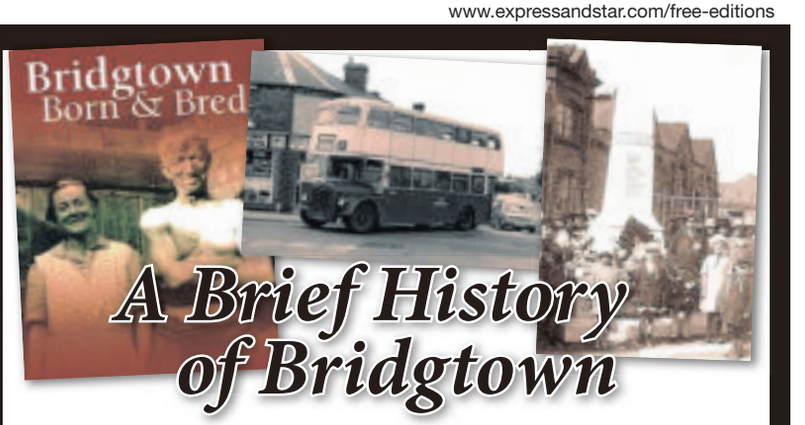

A Brief History of Bridgtown

The earliest information describes a mill in Walk Mill Lane and this is supposed to date back to the sixteenth century, being quite close to the old Roman Road, the Watling Street. There was also a toll-keeper's cottage on the Walsall Road but not much besides prior to the nineteenth century. At this time the name Bridgtown was not used.

In 1859 there was Long House Farm on the Watling Street and 6 houses on the Walsall Road. Soon after that the land was developed by the Wolverhampton Building Society following the opening of the local collieries. Streets were laid out and houses were built. The Bridgtown Estate belonged to the then Lord Hatherton. Its boundaries were Watling Street, Bridge Street, Walsall Road and North Street. The land on the other side of North Street was known as the Bridgtown West Estate and belonged to a Mr. Cotterell. The name Bridgtown was almost certainly devised because of the high numbers of bridges and, indeed, it seemed to be impossible to enter Bridgtown without crossing either over or under a bridge!

The Walsall to Hednesford railway line had been constructed between 1856 and 1858, causing the level of the Walsall Road to be lowered considerably near to the junction with Bridge Street. Soon afterwards came the development of the canal system and the construction of the 13 locks between Churchbridge and Leacroft. Bridgtown had superb communication links, by road, by railway and by canal. By the time 1870 came the village was growing rapidly and was considered to be a fine example of modern planning. By 1880 people were talking about Bridgtown becoming bigger than neighbouring Cannock and residents were demanding their own railway station.

As well as the collieries came the pioneering work of men like William Gilpin and Cornelius Whitehouse, developing industries that made use of local coal supplies. So it was that Bridgtown was a thriving energetic community all through the first half of the twentieth century. Then the nature of industry began to change and planners wanted to separate housing from industry. The days of Bridgtown seemed to be numbered and the village came near to extinction in the early 1980s. But planners did not reckon on the indomitable spirit and will of the Bridgtown people. The village lives on and today regeneration continues apace!

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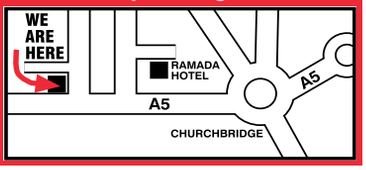

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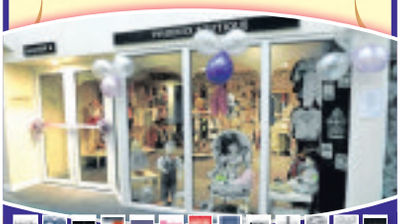

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The next significant change came with the Reformation, when much of the surrounding land changed hands. The land was taken from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield and sold to Sir William Paget in 1546. The Pagets remained the major landowners until this Century.

In 1929 the name of the civil parish was changed from Burntwood, Edial and Woodhouses to simply Burntwood. Besides those three early hamlets the parish includes Chasetown and Chase Terrace, which grew up as mining villages in the later 19th century. Since the 1960s, following the closure of the last mine, there has been extensive residential development around Burntwood itself and in Chasetown and Chase Terrace, along with some industrial growth, and in 1974 the parish was designated an urban parish. The east and north-west parts remain agricultural.

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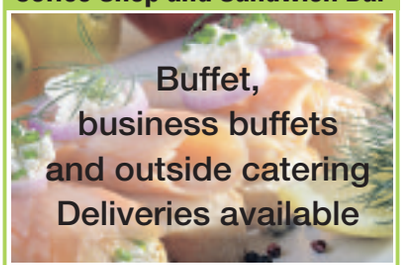

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New State of the Art Building opens for business in October half term

The forthcoming Open Evening is being held at 6.00 pm, at Staffordshire University Academy, on October 1st

Outstanding pastoral care with dedicated, highly experienced pastoral co-ordinators for each year group is something that staff at Staffordshire University Academy are proud of.

This helps in supporting students through their time at the academy, their education and any other issues that may be of concern to either the student or parents.

The academy also employs full time learning mentors who work with students, who having a positive approach to their education, may sometimes find mathematics and English difficult.

Grades

This has proven to be highly successful in raising student grades.

Staffordshire University Academy believes in preparing students for their future.

This includes financial awareness, ICT literacy, good communication skills, respect for themselves and others and good citizenship - in addition to their academic subjects.

To discover more, come along to our Open Evening on 1st October 2013 at 6.00pm.

As an entitlement for all students, there is a passion for excellence in everything that the academy commits to

Reaching your true potential

Staffordshire University Academy plans to open its doors to students on a brand new, purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility this half term , 23rd October 2013.

Not only will students have access to all of the latest technologies for education, they will also be part of a dynamic, innovative, community-centred Academy that is raising aspirations and achievement, transforming and delivering excellence.

At Staffordshire University Academy we are passionate about embedding an outstanding curriculum through our learning centred approach and an insistence on high quality teaching, together with a passion for excellence in everything that the Academy does, as an entitlement for all students.

Two significant changes that have taken place last year and will continue are:

1) All students start their GCSEs in Year 9.

2) The Academy believes in a "Stage not Age" curriculum.

In Mathematics and English Year 7 and 8 are taught together based on ability.

Our Academy opened its doors for the first time in September 2011 on the back of many achievements obtained over the four years previous leading up to academy status.

One of the latest awards, received in June 2012 from the Specialists Schools Academy Trust was the Outstanding Continuous improvements Award for five A*-C GCSE Grades including English and Mathematics over the period 2008 to 2011.

This helped to place the Academy in the top one per cent of schools nationally.

In August 2013, the Academy achieved its highest ever results at both GCSE and A Level; 95% 5 A*-C grades at GCSE, 50% 5 A*-C grades including En/Ma at GCSE, 98% A*-E grades at A Level, 95% A*-E grades at AS level, 100% pass rate at BTEC.

Mathematics and English are particular strengths of the Academy, key to future employment and further education.

Sixth Form student numbers have doubled this year, indicating that students have confidence in what the Academy delivers.

100 per cent of students who completed their Sixth Form studies this year have progressed to universities or have gained employment.

The Academy's philosophy is to enable all students to reach their full potential - no matter what their ability.

It's strengths are building a curriculum which enables students to either choose GCSE or BTEC qualifications - or indeed a mix of these qualifications - to further enable success when moving in to our Sixth Form.

staffordshire university academy

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Open Evening

1st October 2013 6.00pm - 8.30pm

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Class sizes throughout the school are kept small with high staff ratios to ensure that each child receives individual care and attention. The junior children, aged three to seven, are based just outside Lichfield in Longdon Green, in a wonderful six acre site where they can benefit from extensive outdoor facilities and well-resourced, purpose-built classrooms. The children enjoy a creative curriculum, including Forest School, designed to stimulate their imagination and instil a love of learning.

Senior students and the Sixth Form are based in several buildings the Cathedral Close, one being the magnificent 17th century Palace. High quality teaching and dedicated resources enable specialist learning across all subjects. Academic standards are high, proven by a track record of outstanding GCSE and A Level results.

"We measure the difference that the school makes to each student's academic achievement through the value-added scores. This is the difference between raw ability (as calculated through baseline testing) and actual performance, and demonstrates the impact of teaching on grades. Lichfield Cathedral School's outstanding value-added scores place us in the top 5per cent nationally," said Headmaster, David Corran .

"Our Sixth Form students clearly benefit from small tutor groups, a nurturing environment, a bespoke curriculum and personalised careers guidance," added Deputy Head, Susan Hannam. "While academic results are important, we are also keen to ensure that students develop good communication and leadership skills through participation in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and that they become good citizens by understanding their responsibilities to local and global communities and taking action to improve the lives of others."

Early years education provides benefits beyond school

Sith formers discuss university options

The ethos of the School is that of a family community where Christian values are upheld and, while most pupils are members of the Church of England, children of other denominations and religions are welcomed. The link with the Cathedral remains strong with a weekly prayer service and regular religious and educational events throughout the year.

Boy choristers (aged 7 to 13), who sing in the Cathedral nearly every day, board at the school and enjoy substantial choral scholarships provided by the Dean and Chapter. Girl choristers (aged 10 to 15) are supported by choral scholarships provided by the school and remain day pupils who take part in weekly services in the Cathedral. This year, choral auditions will be held on Friday 11 October (for girls) and on Friday 11 January (for boys).

The school offers scholarships for entry to Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 in the following areas: academic, sport, music, art and drama. Pupils are expected to attain a high standard in all areas of the curriculum. Whilst the school holds an exceptional reputation for our provision in music and the performing arts, there is no specific type of pupil or student at LCS. Academics, artists, athletes and the adventurous are all welcome. For more information, contact Lesley Bannister on 01543 306168.

Lichfield Cathedral choristers preparing for evensong

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Commercial Feature

ANOTHER YEAR OF RECORD RESULTS AND PROGRESS

Cannock Chase High School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school with Academy status, serving Cannock and its surrounding area. The school was invited by the Department for Education to become an independent academy in 2011 in recognition of its performance and high standards. Since then, those standards have continued to improve, and we now regularly achieve levels above the national average at GCSE and A Level.

In 2013 we are celebrating another year of record results and progress. This year the Department for Education recognised our excellence again, and – based on the progress and achievements of students at the school – has now said: "There is no better school within a 75-mile radius". (DfE Schools and statistics report, 2013)

We aim to prepare young people for life as happy, rounded and responsible citizens in a modern society, equipping them with the skills and knowledge that will prepare them for adult life and lifelong learning. We place great value on politeness and collective responsibility, believing firmly that we are all responsible for one another as well as for ourselves. We are committed to providing an education which helps young people to realise their potential both academically and socially, offering a curriculum which broadens their experience and challenges their intellect.

We are particularly proud of the following achievements this year, which place us above the national percentage in all these categories:

- 20 per cent of students awarded places at top universities
- Over 70 per cent of students achieving three or more levels of progress between years 7 and 11 in both English and mathematics
- Above national percentage of students achieving the 'EBac' qualifications at A*-C (English, Maths, Science, Language and Humanities subjects)
- Over 80 per cent of students achieving A*-C in at least 2 sciences
- 20 per cent increase of top grades (A*/A) at both GCSE and A level
- 35 per cent of GCSE students achieving A* grades

An increase in the number of students going on to apprenticeships

We offer extensive facilities, a wide range of subjects at all levels, and a unique and exciting 'option based' curriculum for year 9, leading to GCSE and BTec courses in year 10 and year 11.

The school is divided into six Houses for pastoral care, and each student is placed into a tutor group of around 24 students aged 11-16. There they benefit from mentoring, support and academic prefects who guide and advise alongside tutors and whole school academic mentors. The school is inclusive and welcomes students from all backgrounds.

The progress that students make during their time at Cannock Chase High School is second to none, and enables every individual, whatever their gifts, talents and abilities, to flourish and to be the best they can be.

Come and visit us anytime, and particularly at our Open Evening (6-8.30pm on Tuesday September, 24 at the Upper School, Calving Hill site), and also during our Open Days on September, 24, 25 and 26. Just telephone the school for a tour.

Rugeley Sixth Form Academy Open Evening

Come and see the new Rugeley Sixth Form Academy at Hagley Park Academy

Wednesday 16th Oct 18.00 - 20.00

RUGELEY SIXTH FORM ACADEMY
Creative Education Trust

If you were unable to attend our full open evenings in July or would like any additional information, come along to our **Information Evenings**. Or if you would like a **Tour of the Academies** please contact us:

FAIR OAK ACADEMY
Creative Education Trust

Fair Oak Academy Information Evening

Tuesday 24th Sept 18.45 - 19.45

T: 01889 802440

HAGLEY PARK ACADEMY
Creative Education Trust

Hagley Park Academy Information Evening

Wednesday 25th Sept 18.45 - 19.45

T: 01889 571680

ERASMUS DARWIN ACADEMY

Erasmus Darwin Academy,
Pool Road, Burntwood,
Staffordshire WS7 3QW
T: 01543 685828
F: 01543 677485
Principal: Ms B. Astling

Pupils currently in Year 6 and their parents are invited to attend

Erasmus Darwin Academy

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 26th September 2013 5.45pm - 8.30pm

Erasmus Darwin Academy is a highly successful, thriving and happy school. We offer excellent opportunities for learning, with an emphasis on traditional academic subjects. The Academy provides a structured, formal ethos and we expect our students to show very high standards of behaviour at all times. We look after the young people in our care very well by attending to their individual needs and aptitudes. We are dedicated to developing the "whole child", and the Academy provides a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

ACADEMY OPEN MORNINGS (9.15am - 10.30am)
Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th September 2013
Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th September 2013
Monday 30th September, Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd October 2013
Monday 7th Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October 2013

Numbers are limited so please phone in advance to book a place

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6th October 2013

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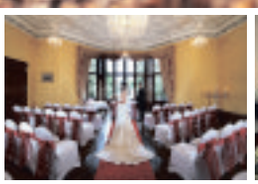

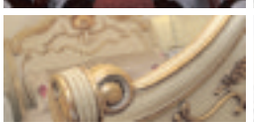

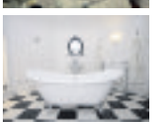

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Amazing Autumn Bridal Fayre

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Weddings

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What's On! Cannock

Viva Glasvegas at The Slade Rooms

GLASWEGIAN rockers Glasvegas, who made a big noise in 2008 with hit single Daddy's Gone, are returning to Wolverhampton on Friday, October 4, for a gig at The Slade Rooms.

Led by singer and guitarist James Allan, the band are known for his emotional songs rooted in the harsh realities of life.

Recorded in their home city, third studio album Later... When The TV Turns To Static, was released earlier this month.

It is guitar-driven and passionately performed, particularly the tracks Choices and I'd Rather Be Dead (Than Be With You). The nearest to anthems are If and album closer Finished Sympathy.

Tickets cost £15 plus fees, call 0870 320 7000 or see www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

Meanwhile, 1980s favourites The Primitives are at The Slade Rooms tonight (Thursday) and legendary 74-year-old drummer Ginger Baker (ex-Cream, PIL) brings his Jazz Confusion to the Wulfrun tomorrow (Friday).

Caro mum-to-be postpones tour

DUTCH jazz-pop singer Caro Emerald, 32, who had a sold-out concert at the Symphony Hall last week, has announced her spring tour including Birmingham NIA date in March is postponed to October 11, after revealing she is pregnant. Purchased tickets will be valid for the new date.

Champagne comedy promises to be a Noel Coward corker

Perfect nine for South's song legacy

NINE-PIECE band The South, featuring two former singers from The Beautiful South, are keeping alive the repertoire from the 20-year career of one of the UK's favourite bands of the 1990s.

After The Beautiful South split in 2007 and main frontman Paul Heaton went solo, fellow founder Dave Hemmingway and Alison Wheeler, who had replaced Jacqui Abbott in 2003, decided to carry on with the help of several stalwarts from the touring band.

Debut

They will be performing songs from their debut album Sweet Refrains plus such Beautiful South favourites as Rotterdam, Don't Marry Her, You Keep It All In, Perfect Ten and many others at Bilston's Robin 2 venue at Mount Pleasant on Tuesday, October 1.

Call the box office on 01902 401211.

Singers Alison Wheeler and Dave Hemmingway with members of The South, continuing the music of The Beautiful South and coming to Bilston's Robin 2

A REVIVAL of Noel Coward's Champagne-popping comedy Fallen Angels, teaming-up stage and screen actresses Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as best friends Julia and Jane, is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Apart from doing wonders for the sales of Phildelphia cheese, Sara Crowe is probably best known as the first bride in Four Weddings And A Funeral. She has gone on to success in West End productions, specialising in Noel Coward plays.

Lover

Jenny Seagrove is a familiar face as barrister Jo Mills in Judge John Deed but is also a West End regular. She had a starring role in the recent hit revival of Coward's Volcano.

Noel Coward's 1925 farce Fallen Angels tells of a pair of bored wives who pop open the Champagne when a mutual former lover decides to call but too much liquid courage leads to unexpected results.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's stunning arena production of rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar, featuring his TV viewer-selected Jesus, Ben Forster, alongside Tim Minchin – the real star as Judas – and Melanie C as Mary Magdalene plus a cameo by Chris Moyles as King Herod, returns a year on from its debut in Birmingham. The Thursday, October 3, spectacular at the NIA will be its final encore.

As The Lion King finally roars off, Birmingham Hippodrome welcomes back its home company when Birmingham Royal Ballet perform a triple bill. Tombeaux, E=mc2 and Still Life At The Penguin Cafe will be staged from October 3 to 5, then Sleeping Beauty arrives.

It's liquid courage for Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as Julia and Jane in Fallen Angels

GAME REVIEWS

Saints and the sinners

Grand Theft Auto V (18, Rockstar)

PEOPLE queued at midnight to get this game and, in a grim case of life imitating Grand Theft Auto, some were even mugged for their copy.

GTA upsets moral guardians, although they probably don't get its dark humour. The series is violent, sweary, morally dubious. So is part five and that will please fans.

Does GTAV live up to the hype accorded a 170 million dollar blockbuster? Oh yes. Rockstar have put the money on screen, creating the massive open-world arena of Los Santos, an alternative Los Angeles. The visuals are stunning and the freedom to explore the city, though partly an illusion, is liberating.

Gamers can choose from a cast of crooks as they play a part in an action-packed crime drama that doesn't let up from the first flashback bank heist.

Saints Row IV (18, Volition)

A CRAZY alternative to Grand Theft Auto. The graphics are not perfect but SRIV is a fun spoof of GTA and its clones.

Street gang The Saints have made it to the White House after saving the US from nuclear apocalypse – in an action-packed prologue – and then face an alien invasion. As one of the characters says: "The Saints don't do subtle".

Reviewed on X360 **LB**

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 28.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jack Donnelly

Atlantis
BBC1, 8.25pm
The Beeb's fantasy adventure replacement for Merlin focuses on a young lad called Jason (played by Misfits and House of Anubis star Jack Donnelly) who, while searching for his missing father, is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land, a place where mythical creatures, soothsaying oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace. Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Mark Addy and Sarah Parish also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** I Love My Country.

6.15 Pointless Celebrities. With Colin Baker, Pam Ferris, Martin Jarvis and Matthew Kelly.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the second of this weekend's live shows, as the remainder of the couples take to the floor.

8.25 Atlantis. New series. Fledgling hero Jason goes in search of his father, only to be washed up on the shores of a mysterious land. Fantasy drama, starring Jack Donnelly and Mark Addy.

9.15 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Matt Johnson presents as the balls are set rolling.

9.25 Casualty. Iain helps a teenager who was caught up in a fatal car crash as he struggles to face up to the truth, while Fletch decides to shoulder the blame for Tess's mistake.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea and Swansea City v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of the latest games in the Football League.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30 Film:** From This Day Forward. (1946) **8.00 Film:** A Damsel in Distress. (1937) **9.40** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.10** The Life of Birds. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** University Challenge. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** The Hairy Bakers. **1.00** Live MotoGP. **2.05** EastEnders. **4.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.15** Flog It! (R)

6.00 The Wonder of Dogs. (R)

7.00 Dad's Army. The men head off for a weekend at a training camp. (R)

7.30 Count Arthur Strong. The former variety star is offered a bit-part in a radio play. (R)

8.00 The 70s. Historian Dominic Sandbrook examines the decade, touching on the housing boom, the arrival of thousands of Ugandan refugees and the 1972 miners' strike. (R)

9.00 Mock the Week. With Rob Beckett, Romesh Ranganathan and Josh Widdicombe. (R)

9.30 The Sarah Millican Slightly Longer Television Programme. Extended edition, with Quentin Willson, Bradley Walsh and Richard Osman.

10.10 Dara O Briain – Craic Dealer. The comedian in performance at Edinburgh Playhouse.

11.10 Film: Wonder Boys. (2000) A washed-up professor is given the inspiration to finish his latest novel by a student who shows him a new perspective on life. Drama, starring Michael Douglas.

12.55 Film: Distant Voices, Still Lives. (1990) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Caninimals. (R) **7.10** Caninimals. (R) **7.15** Caninimals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.20** Catchphrase. (R) **2.05** Doc Martin. (R) **3.05** The X Factor. (R) **4.05 Film:** Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles. (2001) **5.55** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.05 ITV News; Weather.

6.20 You've Been Framed and Famous! Harry Hill narrates a selection of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers, featuring people resembling Tom Cruise, Britney Spears and Prince Harry. (R)

7.20 Stepping Out. The final, featuring a performance by Diversity. Last in the series.

8.20 The X Factor. The singers who impressed at the double auditions now face a tougher challenge as they gather at Wembley Arena for the first part of boot camp.

9.50 Through the Keyhole. Larry Lamb and Emma Bunton join Dave Berry on the panel.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: 10,000 BC. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.4** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 British F3. **6.40** The Grid. **7.05** The Great North Swim. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Jilly Pollock hosts the fifth and final party in Liverpool. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Comic-book drama co-created by Joss Whedon, in which Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) assembles a group of highly skilled operatives to investigate strange new cases. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. A Marine who was seriously injured in Afghanistan begins a project to build a specially adapted home with a cutting-edge design, on a budget of £250,000. (R)

9.00 Film: The Taking of Pelham 123. (2009) Criminals hijack a crowded New York subway train and threaten to kill the passengers unless they are paid $10million. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington and John Travolta.

11.10 Film: Hitman. (2007) Action thriller, starring Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott and Olga Kurylenko.

1.00 Film: The Informers. (2008) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Blancpain Endurance Series.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.50** Slugterra. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Animal Maternity. (R) **12.15** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.15 Film:** Columbo: Caution – Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10 Film:** The Kentuckian. (1955) Western, starring Burt Lancaster. **5.15 Film:** The Magnificent Seven. (1960) Western, with Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Charles Bronson.

7.45 Film: The Wonderful Country. (1959) A tough lone gunman returns from exile in Mexico to take on risky work with the Texas Rangers patrolling the border. Western, with Robert Mitchum, Julie London and Pedro Armendariz.

9.40 5 News Weekend.

9.45 Film: Point Break. (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze.

12.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.55** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Michaela Strachan tries to survive on a desert island. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. A visit to a radio station ends badly. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. Disaster strikes at Silver Hatch when Big Chris falls asleep on the job. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. A piglet grows tired of her brother. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. Clara thinks she has laid an egg. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. Hellie makes an emergency landing. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. Francis's grandma comes to visit. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Robin Hood **7.45** Doctor Who **8.30** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **9.00 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) **11.15** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Africa **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Africa **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.50** What's Going On? The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye **11.50** Charles Bradley: Soul of America

ITV2
3.00 Peter Andre: My Life **4.00** Kings of Leon: The Hot Desk **4.15** You've Been Framed! **5.45 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.50 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.50** The Xtra Factor **10.50** Celebrity Juice **11.40** The Magaluf Weekender

ITV3
2.05 Film: The Count of Monte Cristo (2002) **4.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Foyle's War **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Wire in the Blood

ITV4
1.25 Film: Spartacus (1960) **5.10** British Superbike Championship Highlights **6.10 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **8.00** Hornblower **10.20 Film:** Schindler's List (1993)

E4
4.05 Rules of Engagement **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00 Film:** Marley and Me (2008) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** Rude Tube: Total Fails

Film4
2.50 Von Ryan's Express (1965) **5.15** Meet Dave (2008) **7.05** My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) **9.00** Sleeping with the Enemy (1991) Thriller, starring Julia Roberts. **10.55** Alien (1979)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 29.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Christopher Reeve

Superman
Channel 5, 6.20pm
Richard Donner's 1978 blockbuster was the first A-list superhero epic in history, and is as entertaining today as when it was released. The movie examines Kal-El's origins; how he was rocketed from his dying home world of Krypton, crash-landed on Earth, raised as a normal teenager, and then went to the city of Metropolis to fight for truth, justice and the American way. The fact it can warm the coldest heart, and leave kids perched on the edge of their seat is testament to how good this 35-year-old classic still is. Christopher Reeve stars.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **3.30** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison visit the Shropshire town of Ludlow during its annual food and drink festival, and Tom Heap looks at the threat posed by non-native plants and animals.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Items at the Royal Agricultural University near Cirencester include a tea caddy used for a budgie's ashes and possibly the last signatures made by Edward VIII before his abdication. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 By Any Means. A girl's body is found in the boot of a car belonging to a well-respected judge, and Helen is convinced the accused has been framed by an ex-policeman with a personal vendetta.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches.

11.25 Film: New Town Killers. (2008) Thriller, starring Dougray Scott.

1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Borderline. (1950) **7.30** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **11.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. **2.15** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs.

6.00 Great British Railway Journeys. The role Weymouth played in the D-Day landings. (R)

6.30 The Great British Bake Off. The remaining contestants face three tasks involving sweet dough. (R)

7.30 The Ginge, the Geordie and the Geek. New series. Comedy sketch show, starring Graeme Rooney, Paul Charlton and Kevin O'Loughlin.

8.00 The Crane Gang. High winds lead to jobs being cancelled across the country.

9.00 The Story of the Jews. The Holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel. Last in the series.

10.00 The Wrong Mans. Comedy thriller, starring James Corden and Mathew Baynton. (R)

10.30 QI XL. Extended edition, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and David Mitchell.

11.15 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R)

11.45 Film: Sus. (2010) Drama, starring Clint Dyer and Ralph Brown.

1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Caninals. (R) **7.10** Caninals. (R) **7.15** Caninals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Big Time Rush. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.25 Film:** Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.05** You've Been Framed! (R) **3.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.35** Downton Abbey. (R)

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Surprise Surprise. A father and daughter are reunited.

7.30 The X Factor. The remaining acts have a final chance to impress Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh before the line-up of the judges' houses round is revealed.

9.00 Downton Abbey. Mary takes an interest in the running of the estate, but meets firm resistance from her father. Lady Rose MacClare finds herself in a predicament at a tea dance in York.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: Larry Crowne. (2011) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts.

12.10 Premiership Rugby Union. **1.00** The Store. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.55** Motorsport UK. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** American Football: Hard Knocks. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50 Film:** The Net. (1995) **4.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.05** Channel 4 News. **5.25** The Political Slot. **5.30** American Football Live. Minnesota Vikings v Pittsburgh Steelers (Kick-off 6.00pm).

8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. Having moved his cabin to the beach, Kevin doubles the floor space with a new sun lounge, puts up a hammock and dives in London's oldest dock in search of junk to recycle.

9.00 Big Fat Quiz of the 90s. Jonathan Ross, Jo Brand, Sue Perkins, Lee Mack, Bob Mortimer and Richard Ayoade demonstrate how much they remember about the 1990s. Jimmy Carr asks the questions.

10.35 Gogglebox. Some of Britain's most opinionated viewers comment on shows from the past seven days, including The X Factor and The Great British Bake Off. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.20 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Alan celebrates the show's 100th episode, with chat and music by Justin Timberlake and Rihanna, and boxer David Haye's thoughts about his upcoming bout with Tyson Fury. (R)

12.35 Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **1.15** American Football Live. **4.45** British F3. (R) **5.10** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Golf. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Slugterra. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** James Bond: The True Story. (R) **1.20 Film:** Vertical Limit. (2000) **3.40 Film:** Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Director's Cut. (1977)

6.20 Film: Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, with Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Gone in 60 Seconds. (2000) A veteran car thief is forced to pull off an extremely complex heist to save his brother from the gangster holding him hostage. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Angelina Jolie.

11.25 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.55** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.10** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.40 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Staying in with Greg & Russell **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Miss Marple **7.50** The Rabbits of Skomer **8.00** Fabric of Britain **9.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood **10.30** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **11.35** Proms on Four: John Wilson's Hollywood Rhapsody

ITV2
2.10 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **4.40** The X Factor **6.10** The Xtra Factor **7.10 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** Fast & Furious (2009)

ITV3
3.45 Film: The Railway Children (1970) **6.00** Murder, She Wrote **7.00** Lewis **9.00 Film:** The Life of David Gale (2003) **11.35** Bomb Girls

ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. The ninth round of the season from Silverstone. **6.00** Goodwood Revival 2013 **7.00** Minder **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Firefox (1982) **11.45 Film:** Memphis Belle (1990)

E4
4.50 How I Met Your Mother **6.15** Rules of Engagement **6.45** The Big Bang Theory **8.10 Film:** The Spy Next Door (2010) **10.00** New Rude Tube **11.00** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
2.55 The Straight Story (1999) **5.10** Ice Age (2002) **6.55** Employee of the Month (2006) **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) **11.05** Black Book (2006)

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Film Choices

MONDAY
Hostel, Channel 5, 11pm
Three backpackers travelling across Europe hear of a Slovakian inn where their every hedonistic desire will be met. However, they discover they have been lured into the clutches of wealthy depraved businessmen who pay for the chance to torture people to death. Horror, starring Jay Hernandez and Eythor Gudjonsson. (2005)

TUESDAY
Siege of the Saxons, Channel 4, 1.30pm
King Arthur is betrayed and killed by one of his knights, who has formed an alliance with an invading Saxon horde and intends to seize the throne himself. However, the dead monarch's daughter is rescued by an outlaw, who seeks the aid of Merlin in ensuring the crown passes to her instead of the villainous usurper. Medieval adventure, starring Ronald Lewis. (1963)

WEDNESDAY
Judgment Night, BBC1, 11.45pm
Four suburbanites are stranded in Chicago's tough West Side while on their way to a boxing match. They experience a chilling night of terror when they see a gangland murder and must flee for their lives from the killer, who is determined to leave no witnesses. Thriller, starring Emilio Estevez, Stephen Dorff, Cuba Gooding Jr, Jeremy Piven and Denis Leary. (1993)

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, Friday BBC1, 11.35pm

THURSDAY
Magicians, ITV, 10.35pm
A conjuring double act comes to an end after an unfortunate accident with a guillotine. Set on separate careers, the pair become bitter rivals bent on sabotaging each other's performance at any opportunity - until the prospect of winning a prestigious international contest offers the incentive to bury the hatchet and join forces once again. Comedy, with David Mitchell. (2007)

FRIDAY
Mickey Blue Eyes, ITV, 10.35pm
A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's daughter, who wants to escape her family's criminal connections. However, try as he may, he realises there is virtually no way to avoid being drawn into its members' illegal activities. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Burt Young. (1999)

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, BBC1, 11.35pm
A doctor is caught molesting a patient and commits suicide, after which his wife has a miscarriage. She blames his victim for her losses and plans to get revenge, infiltrating the unsuspecting woman's house as a nanny and playing twisted mind games to destroy her life. Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay. (1992)

Pick of the Week

Legend of the lost city is brought back to life

There are some genres that just fit into Saturday evening's TV schedules perfectly, and being without them seems weird.

Talent shows are a given these days, as are glossy light entertainment programmes. And you certainly can't miss out on a fantasy adventure.

Doctor Who is the granddaddy of them all, but will be off our screens until the 50th anniversary edition, set to be broadcast on November 23rd.

In recent years, the likes of Robin Hood and Merlin have fulfilled the requirement whenever the Time Lord has been off air, but now there's a new show on the block.

It feels as if the Beeb has been showing the trailer for Atlantis every five minutes lately; they've obviously pushed the boat out when it comes to the budget and so are desperate for it to gain a decent audience.

However, what the corporation hasn't done is tell us much about the plot.

What we do know is that it focuses on a young lad called Jason who, while searching for his missing father, is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land, a place where mythical creatures, soothsaying oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace.

Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Heading the cast is Jack Donnelly, and the series is set to make him a star; he will probably already look familiar to fans of Misfits and House of Anubis thanks to his recurring roles on them.

But here he plays Jason, whose life is about to undergo a dramatic change. He's always been an outsider, but finally finds friendship in Atlantis with Pythagoras and Hercules.

But don't panic, although the name of the Greek mathematician will send shivers down the spine of those who tried to deal with his theories about triangles during school lessons, here he's a youngster with a big heart who's about to have a lot of adventures.

He's played by Robert Emms, who most recently popped up in Kick-Ass 2.

Also involved in the three-way bromance is Hercules – but he isn't quite as you've seen him before.

Back in the 1990s, Kevin Sorbo played the legendary hero as a muscle-bound hunk. Here he's played by The Full Monty star Mark Addy, and it's clear that the character is no longer in the peak of his prime.

"I am very excited to be invited along on this epic adventure," says the York-born star. "The scripts bring to life ancient myths with such a vibrancy and sense of humour; I knew I wanted to be a part of it."

Also set to feature are Sarah Parish and Juliet Stevenson; the BBC's controller of drama commissioning, Ben Stephenson, is certainly impressed by the calibre of those involved.

He says: "The fantastic cast announced for Atlantis is testament to the ambition and scale of Howard Overman's scripts. Some of the UK's best-loved actors are joining our newest talent to take the BBC1 audience to a rich and wonderful world where any adventure is possible."

Jack Donnelly stars in Atlantis, Saturday, BBC1, 8.25pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Gadget Man
Channel 4, 8.30pm
For us technophobes, Richard Ayoade is nothing short of a godsend. Trying not to think about the fact that this comedy genius will shortly no longer be on our screens in The IT crowd (sob, sniff), the way he talks us through the idiots' guide to the newest of technology and gadgets is something of a lifesaver. This week, Richard's looking at DIY, something of which he's definitely not a fan. He's testing out the latest safety tools, building machinery and lawnmowers, all of which promise to take the strain and pain out of home decorating. Richard also sets himself a personal challenge; to make over a room in his house using robots and gadgets, thus not having to lift a finger himself.

Broadmoor: The Inside Story
Channel 5, 9pm
Thinking about the type of people it has caged is enough to make you shudder, but Broadmoor is approaching a significant anniversary, having been home to Britain's most notorious killers for 150 years. This two-part documentary explores the history of the world's most famous and feared hospital; from the Victorian era to the present day. This first instalment takes a look at Broadmoor as it is today. Surrounded by barbed wire and high-level security, the facility is home to some of country's most deranged and dangerous minds. In 1863, Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum opened, as the law declared it immoral to blame the insane for crimes and send them to the gallows…

TUESDAY
The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert
BBC1, 10.35pm
This year marked the 20th anniversary of the murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence, but the repercussions of the shocking crime are still being felt. On Sunday, September 29, his life and legacy are being celebrated with a special concert at the O2 Arena – and some of the biggest names in British music are taking part. It's an impressively eclectic line-up, featuring Ellie Goulding, Rita Ora, Beverley Knight, Emeli Sande, Rizzle Kicks, Labrinth, Plan B, Jessie J, Tinie Tempah, Rudimental, Soul II Soul and Ed Sheeran. There's even a bit of jazz for the grown-ups, courtesy of Jamie Cullum. If you couldn't make it to the concert, the BBC are bringing us some of the highlights.

WEDNESDAY
Grand Designs
Channel 4, 9pm
Flying instructor Colin Mackinnon and his partner, hovercraft instructor and trapeze artist Marta Briongos, love their airfield so much, they have decided to live there too. Their plan is to build an extraordinary metal sculptural home next to the runway, designed by one of Scotland's most acclaimed architects. It's inspired by aircraft hangars, but bespoke metal homes are far from the norm in Scotland, and finding people to do the work is anything but easy. The violent rain, snow, 100-mile-an-hour winds and the worst storms for a century don't help matters, so little wonder the year-long project starts dragging – into its third year. Colin and Marta do everything possible to see their unique project through to the end. But will Kevin like the result?

The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.35

Science Britannica
BBC2, 9pm
It's the last in the present series of Science Britannica, but we shouldn't get too downhearted – no doubt a new Professor Brian Cox show will be along in a week or two. The reason he's become so ubiquitous is because he's very good at explaining difficult ideas in a way that makes it easy for non-experts to comprehend, without making us feel like we're being talked down to. However, this week he's tackling an issue that most of us should understand – happy accidents. It seems that some of Britain's most impressive breakthroughs were made when the scientists were actually trying to discover something else.

THURSDAY
Mayhem & Mishaps: Britain Caught on Camera
BBC1, 9pm
Forget all those complaints about Health and Safety getting out of control – this documentary could just convince you that you need to get an expert in to risk assess your house. Mark 'Chappers' Chapman takes a break from Match of the Day 2 to look at some of the calamities that could befall us as we go about our everyday lives. Admittedly, some of them look quite funny when they are happening to someone else, as we're treated to a whole host of CCTV and home video clips of people falling over. But others are no clearly laughing matter, as Chapman examines the consequences of DIY accidents, barbecue fires and exploding white goods.

FRIDAY
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Channel 4, 8pm
It's been a long time since Marvel created a hit, live action TV show. However, when Avengers Assemble struck box office gold last year, the time was finally right to exploit one of Marvel's most enduring organisations, S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention Enforcement and Logistics Division). If you missed last week's pilot, Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) is back from the dead. He forms a specialised team of individuals to brave the post-Battle of New York world. They include combat and espionage specialist Grant Ward (Brett Dalton), expert pilot and martial artist Melinda May (Ming-Na Wen), and free-spirited computer hacker Skye (Chloe Bennet). This week, Coulson and the agents travel to Peru to investigate an object of unknown origin, codenamed 0-8-4.

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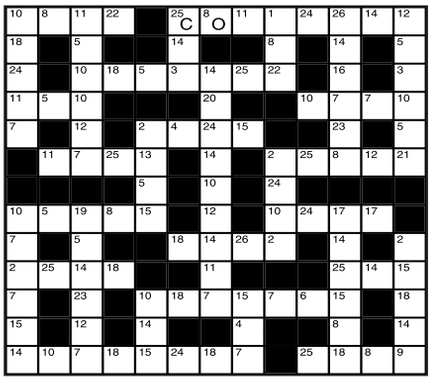
Personal Injury

Puzzler

Brain Gym No.240

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



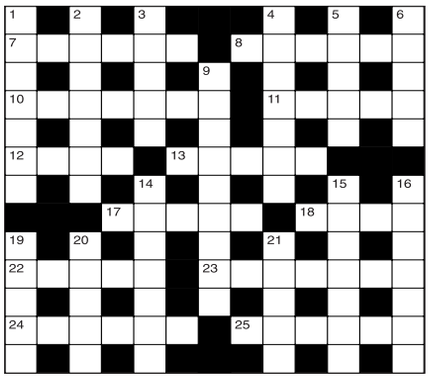
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8 O	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 C
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 S	2 D	3 B	4 K	5 G	6 P	7 N	8 O	9 A	10 M	11 V	12 Q	13 F
14 L	15 T	16 E	17 Y	18 I	19 U	20 C	21 Z	22 J	23 X	24 R	25 H	26 W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. A line used in malaria treatment (6)
8. Make a choice in this election (6)
10. In my view, a vegetable with very good stuffing (7)
11. A step in the making of dough (5)
12. Give out when it's time to come back (4)
13. An unlicensed receiver (5)
17. Leaves with all debts settled (5)
18. Fairy required, some experience necessary (4)
22. If all plants were this, there would be no great variety (5)
23. Reputation for enjoying poor health? (3-4)
24. He knew where to draw the line (6)
25. High jinks with a saucy flavour? (6)

Down

1. Role man has created as a social worker (7)
2. Tract of the brave New World (7)
3. Odd trio holds a proportion (5)
4. A particular deference (7)
5. Maybe the present state of a nervous person (5)
6. To come up before her is not the same (5)
9. Centaur in doubtful form (9)
14. Ruffian out to provide popular entertainment (3,4)
15. Slackened and became loose in a rush (7)
16. Grant permission to break silence (7)
19. Did little after I'd made the running (5)
20. Give birth to a plot (5)
21. Amphibious cart? (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Skilled (6)
8. Acme (6)
10. Felling (7)
11. Clear (5)
12. Rational (4)
13. Sham (5)
17. Avidity (5)
18. Couple (4)
22. Object (5)
23. Decisive (7)
24. Outcome (6)
25. Venerate (6)

Down

1. Opposite (7)
2. Nominate (7)
3. Exhaust (5)
4. Fervent (7)
5. Nip (5)
6. Obscurity (5)
9. Guiltlessness (9)
14. Squirm (7)
15. Sailor (7)
16. Small truck (7)
19. Narrative (5)
20. Foremost (5)
21. Odd (5)

Sudoku

7	6							1
		5		7		3	6	
	8		6				2	
4	1				5			
5			4		6			9
			9				1	4
	7			6	2		5	
6		8		4		1		2
			7				9	6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	5	7	1	2	4	9	8
4	7	9	5	6	8	1	2	3
1	8	2	3	4	9	6	7	5
2	1	3	8	9	4	7	5	6
8	6	4	2	5	7	9	3	1
9	5	7	6	3	1	2	8	4
5	2	1	9	8	6	3	4	7
7	4	8	1	2	3	5	6	9
3	9	6	4	7	5	8	1	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Wince; 4 Eyewash; 8 Aground; 9 Ether; 10 Drew; 11 Organist; 13 Arum; 14 Loft; 16 Uprooted; 17 Ache; 20 Nadir; 21 Spiders; 22 Wreaths; 23 Eaten. Down: 1 What do you know; 2 Nurse; 3 Etui; 4 Endure; 5 Elevator; 6 Atheist; 7 Horatio Nelson; 12 Autocrat; 13 Abridge; 15 Census; 18 Chest; 19 Hive. QUICK - Across: 1 Egret; 4 Beneath; 8 Banquet; 9 Repel; 10 Lees; 11 Pleasure; 13 Reel; 14 Lone; 16 Habitual; 17 Sore; 20 Erupt; 21 Coronet; 22 Toddler; 23 Error. Down: 1 Embellishment; 2 Range; 3 Tour; 4 Battle; 5 Narrator; 6 Ampoule; 7 Helter-skelter; 12 Teetotal; 13 Rebound; 15 Lancer; 18 Owner; 19 Urge.

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Seat set to put new Leon through its paces

LONG-term tests are about living with a car every day, doing all kinds of driving, and exposing the best and the worst of what real buyers will see for themselves. There are many things that a few hours behind the wheel on a new car launch just can't tell you.

Seat has put a lot of investment into the new Leon in an attempt to cut the gap on the perennial sales bonanza enjoyed by its sister car, the Volkswagen Golf.

While the Golf has become ever more straight-line sensible in its styling though, the Leon has brought together a stunning combination of curves, angles and overall poise to create something that looks much more interesting. The question is: do its real-world talents match up?

This is what I'm aiming to find out by taking delivery of a just run-in five-door Leon for the next six months. I've picked the mid-range SE model, which has a lot of little touches over and above the base S grade version, but is a healthy amount cheaper than the body-kitted and more ostentatious FR. I've also chosen a petrol engine, in light of the incredible work the Volkswagen Group has done to improve the driveability and efficiency of its unleaded-drinking powerplants.

Pages upon pages have been written about the 104bhp 1.2-litre TSI turbocharged petrol and it's fairly well known as a great unit. In light of that, I've opted for its big brother, the 138bhp 1.4 TSI. It's going to be interesting to see whether it can justify the extra £1,050 over the 1.2. They share a road tax band but the 1.2 is four insurance groups lower and allegedly 3mpg more frugal, so I'll be aiming to see whether the higher performance from the 1.4 is worth it.

The new Seat Leon, a stunning combination curves, angles and overall poise

Seat has put a lot of investment into the the new Leon in a bid to boost sales

In terms of options, OU13 YBM has got only the key ones Seat reckons will be most popular with buyers. Chief among them is the Technology Pack, which brings with it full LED headlights – a first for any C-segment car – along with DAB radio and sat-nav courtesy of a good-sized colour screen mounted reasonably high up on the dashboard. Initially Seat dropped the pack's near-£1,100 price to £500, but further down the line it became, amazingly, free of charge.

Technology

The headlights are a big deal for Seat and the market in general and after much deal-making within the VW Group, the Leon has secured first rights to the new technology, even ahead of the Golf and Audi A3.

The idea behind LED headlights is not just that they use much less energy than traditional bulbs or high-intensity xenon lamps; the light the special LEDs create is closer in colour to natural daylight than any alternatives, allegedly making it easier for the human eye to distinguish contrast and movement within the beam. As the nights draw in later this year, I'll have the perfect opportunity to test the theory.

On top of the Technology Pack there are 17in alloy wheels, which certainly fill the wheel arches more convincingly but could also be more exposed to damage from kerbs. I'll look into this and see whether the move was a wise one or not.

Other than that, the car is standard, so with the Golf lined up as a significantly more expensive option and the Skoda Octavia perhaps being bigger than some people want or need, the time has come for the Leon to prove itself within the VW Group.

I'm going to pile the miles on it, encompassing driving at every time of day and night, motorway trips, urban scratching, Sunday afternoon blasts and of course the weekly shop.

My partner, Laura, will also be driving it, and since most family cars are shared between parents, her opinion will be invaluable.

It's game on, Leon, so let's see what you're made of.

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06 MINI COOPER CONV. IN SILVER BLUE, HOOD, FULL BLACK LEATHER, GREAT VALUE AT ONLY £6999

08 Reg CITROEN C1 VIBE. In Red, PS, CD, low tax & insurance £3999

W Reg PORSCHE BOXSTER S. In Metallic Silver, Black leather, PS, CL, EW, CD, AC, alloys£7999

10 Reg VW BEETLE 1.6 LUNAR Met Blue, P/S, C/L, E/W, Alloys, C D, low mileage £8599

SPORTS & CONVERTIBLES

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07 Reg **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi** 5-door. Met Blue, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys, only..... £3999
05 Reg **PEUGEOT 307 CC 2.0** Silver, Black leather, PS, CL, A CD, alloys..... £4999
52 Reg **PEUGEOT 406 COUPE SE 2.2.** Met Silver, PS, CL, EW, alloys..... £1999
52 Reg **FIAT PUNTO SPORTING** in Electric Blue, 3 door..... £1799
52 Reg **MG ZS** in Metallic Red, PS, EW, alloys..... £999
W Reg **PORSCHE BOXSTER S.** In Metallic Silver, Black leather, PS, CL, EW, CD, AC, alloys..... £7999

MINI CONVERTIBLE

58 **MINI COOPER** Met Black, Half Leather, PS, CL, EW, AC, CD, alloys..... £7199
06 **MINI COOPER CONV.** in Silver Blue, Hood, Full Black Leather, Great Value at only..... £6999
04 Reg **MINI ONE** Automatic. In Chilli Red, first class condition..... £4299

DIESELS

10 Reg **VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi EXCLUSIV.** Met Silver, PS, CL, EW, AC..... £8999
59 Reg **VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.7 CDTi** Met Black, PS, CL, E/W, A/C..... £5999
08 Reg **PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi SPORT** Met Grey, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, Alloys..... £4299
57 Reg **GOLF 1.9 TDi S** Met Blue, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, Alloys..... £6799
X Reg **CITROEN SAXO 1.6 D** 5-door. Metallic Gold, PS, CL, EW..... £1199

AUTOMATIC

55 Reg **VW POLO 1.4 S .**Met Blue, PS, CL, EW, Alloys, AC..... £4199

MPV/4x4

X Reg **NISSAN TINO SE 1.8.** Metallic Silver, P/S, C/L, EW..... £1499

SALOONS & HATCHBACKS

61 Reg **CITROEN C1 VTR 1.0** In White, PS, CL, EW, AC..... £4999
11 Reg **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE** Metallic Black, P/S, CL, EW, AC..... £6199
10 Reg **VW BEETLE 1.6 LUNAR** Met Blue, P/S, C/L, E/W, Alloys, CD, low mileage £8599
09 Reg **CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 SE.** In Black, PAS, CL, EW, AC..... £3499
58 Reg **C3 DESIRE** 5-door. In Metallic Blue, AC, first class condition..... £4399
08 Reg **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 BREEZE** Metallic Grey, PS, CL, EW, alloys..... £4199
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08 Reg **VW POLO 1.2 MATCH** 5-door. Silver, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys..... £4999
08 Reg **CITROEN C1 VIBE.** In Red, PS, CD, low tax & insurance..... £3999
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56 **RENAULT CLIO EXTREME NEW SHAPE 1.2** 3-door, in Red for only..... £2999
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05 Reg **PEUGEOT 206 S 1.1**Met Blue, PS, CL, EW..... £2499
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54 Reg **FORD FOCUS 1.8 EDGE** 5-door. Metallic Blue, P/S, CL, EW, AC, alloys..... £2599
54 Reg **CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE.** In Metallic Silver, PAS, CL, EW, AC..... £2299
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52 Reg **FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC** Met Blue, P/W, C/L, E/W, alloys..... £1499
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Motoring

The ix35 from Hyundai is now on sale with prices from £16,995, with a five-year warranty as standard

Choice of five trim levels on the new Hyundai ix35 SUV

THE new Hyundai ix35 is now on sale and costs from £16,995, the Korean firm has confirmed.

There will be five trim levels for the new SUV, comprising S, SE, SE Nav, Premium and Premium Panorama.

All models come with a long list of standard equipment that includes LED daytime running lights, tyre pressure monitoring system and Trailer Stability Assist to help when towing.

There are also alloy wheels, air conditioning, Hill Assist Control and Downhill Brake Control for off-road driving.

Both two and four-wheel drive versions of the ix35 will be available depending on engine choice.

There are 1.6-litre petrol and 1.7- and 2.0-litre turbodiesel engines to pick from.

The popular 1.7-litre diesel offers 139g/km carbon dioxide emissions, while the new 2.0-litre diesel delivers improved 41.5mpg and 179g/km CO2 emissions compared to the previous version.

Hyundai is also offering the Safety and Comfort Pack for SE models and above that comes with front parking sensors, Supervision cluster, Flex Steer and a tyre pressure display for £795.

As with all new Hyundai cars, a five-year warranty is included as standard with the ix35.

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Double Discount Saving = £3910
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Double Discount Price £13,345 | £1960 Customer Deposit £195.75 Per Month*
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^inc. £10 Finance facility fee & £10 purchase fee

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg for cars shown, (l/100km) Highest FORD B-MAX 1.0 EcoBoost (100PS), M5: urban 42.8 (6.6), extra urban 65.7 (4.3), combined 55.4 (5.1). Official CO_2 emission 119g/km. Lowest: FORD Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost (100PS) Stop-Start, M5: urban 53.3 (5.3), extra urban 76.3 (3.7), combined 65.7 (4.3). Official CO_2 emission 99g/km. *Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Freepost Ford Credit. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions‡. Details correct at time of going to print. Retail only. Subject to stock availability, terms and conditions apply, please ask us for full details. †Free Insurance only available when Ka Studio Connect is financed with Ford Credit. Free insurance terms & conditions: First year insurance offer only available on Ka Studio Connect through Ford Insure, subject to normal underwriting and eligibility criteria. Available to drivers over 21 who have held a valid full UK licence for over 1 year. Other terms and conditions apply. Not available in conjunction with any other insurance offer. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Follow us on

The Mercedes GLA compact SUV has muscular styling and excellent aerodynamics

Mercedes on first trip along road of compact SUV sector

MERCEDES has unveiled the brand new GLA, the company's first challenger in the compact SUV sector.

With two-wheel and four-wheel drive options and surprising efficiency, thanks in part to excellent aerodynamics, the GLA is built more obviously for the road than any prior Mercedes G-series car.

At around 4.4 metres long, 1.8 metres wide (excluding mirrors) and 1.5 metres high, the GLA has a purposeful, muscular stance that will sit well with buyers looking for a compact SUV with a little more visual impact than many of the current options.

It has the safety features to back up its looks, with an extremely complex stability control system able to counter-steer in the event of oversteer, emergency braking, hard acceleration, cross-winds and road camber.

The option of four-wheel drive refers to a new on-demand system that sends more power to the rear wheels only when needed. It's lighter than permanent four-wheel drive systems and allows for greater efficiency at the cost of outright off-road capability; something few, if any, GLA owners will need.

Four engines will initially be available, starting with a turbocharged 1.6-litre petrol GLA 200 with 154bhp, rising through a 2.0-litre, 208bhp turbo petrol to a pair of 2.1-litre diesels with 134bhp and 168bhp.

The 2.0-litre petrol promises to be the most flexible and fastest, passing 62mph in 6.5 seconds thanks to a torque output as high as the more potent diesel's, but over an even broader rev range.

Pricing

Fuel economy hunters should seek out the 134bhp GLA 200 CDI, which according to official tests can manage 65mpg on the combined cycle in conjunction with just 114g/km, although these are provisional figures.

Final UK spec and pricing is yet to be confirmed, however, and it could be 2014 before the model arrives on these shores.

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2009 59 **LACETT 1.4i SE** 5-Dr Full History electrics pack what value !..... £2,999

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2009 09 **C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.6 Hdi VTR+ AUTOMATIC DIESEL** 5-Dr 7 seats alloys aircon 41000 miles..... £7,999
2005 55 **PICASSO DESIRE 2 1.6** 5-Dr aircon electrics pack value for money mpv..... £2,999

DODGE
2007 57 **NITRO SXT 2.8 CRD DIESEL AUTOMATIC** 5-Dr alloys leather aircon 20" wheels only 37500 miles..... £8,999

FIAT
2008 58 **500 1.2 POP** 3-Dr in stunning White and only 31000 miles electrics windows and central locking..... £6,499
2005 05 **PANDA 1.2 DYNAMIC** 5-Dr aircon electrics pack low insurance group..... £2,699
2004 54 **PANDA 1.2 ELEGANZA** 5-Dr climate control alloys electrics pack rare top of the range..... £2,699
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2004 04 **FOCUS 1.8 EDGE** 5-Dr alloys aircon elcetrics pack only 67000 miles..... £2,999
2005 05 **FOCUS C-MAX 1.6 LX** 5-Dr MPV aircon, electrics pack cracking value..... £2,999
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2007 57 **FOCUS CC2 2.0** 2-Dr COUPE CONVERTIBLE alloys aircon electics pack only 44600 miles..... £6,499

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2007 07 **CIVIC 1.8 SE I-VTEC** 5-Dr leather heated seats aircon alloys electrics pack only 53000 miles with history..... £6,999
2007 56 **CIVIC 1.8 VTEC S** 3-Dr aircon alloys electrics pack only 63000 miles with history rare car !..... £6,999

KIA
2010 60 **PICANTO 1.1 DOMINO** 5-Dr lovely car in Black only 11500 miles with aircon & electrics pack..... £5,499
2006 56 **PICANTO 1.1 ZAPP** 5-Dr aircon electrcs pack cheap & economical to run..... £2,999
2008 08 **SORENTO 2.5 CRDi XSs** 5-Dr DIESEL alloys aircon leather seats & history..... £9,999
2008 08 **SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS DIESEL AUTOMATIC 5-Dr 2WD** alloys aircon leather 50,000 miles..... £9,499

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2004 04 **FREELANDER 1.8 S** 5-Dr alloys aircon electrics pack cheap 4x4 motoring..... £4,499
2003 52 **FREELANDER 1.8 Kalahari** 5-Dr alloys aircon electrics pack cheap 4x4 motoring..... £2,499

2010 60 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDi S
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MERCEDES
2008 58 **A150 CLASSIC 1.5 SE** 5-Dr aircon electrics pack only 36000 miles..... £6,999
2008 58 **B180 2.0 CDi DIESEL SPORT AUTOMATIC** 5-Dr half leather alloys aircon 33,000 miles & History rare car..... £9,999

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2007 07 **MINI ONE 1.6 2-Dr CONVERTIBLE** alloys electrics packin excellent condtion summer fun..... £6,999

NISSAN
2008 58 **QASHQAI 2.0 DCI DIESEL ACCENTA** 5-Dr 2WD alloys aircon electrics pack only 28600miles..... £9,999
2004 04 **PRIMERA 1.8 SE** 5-Dr alloys electrics pack aircon only 64,000 miles..... £2,499

PEUGEOT
2004 04 **EXPERT 2.0 Hdi DIESEL PANEL VAN** very clean and tidy van must be seen..... £2,999
2010 60 **207 1.4 MILLESIM** 3-Dr alloys aircon electrics pack only 21000 miles..... £6,499
2010 60 **207 1.4 S HDi DIESEL** 5-Dr aircon electrics cheap RFL & low insurance in white..... £6,499
2006 06 **206 1.4 VERVE SW 5-Dr ESTATE** aircon alloys roof rails lovely spec..... £2,999
2005 05 **206 COUPE CABRIOLET 1.6 ALLURE** 2-Dr leather alloys aircon only 32,000 miles..... £3,999

RENAULT
2010 10 **TWINGO 1.2 EXPRESSION** 3-Dr electric windows central locking look only 15950 miles..... £4,999
2010 10 **CLIO 1.2 TCE MUSIC** 5-Dr alloys aircon elelctrics pack only 25000 miles nice spec!..... £5,999
2009 59 **CLIO 1.2 EXTREME** 3-Dr electic windows central locking only 27000 miles one private owner..... £4,999
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Motoring

The XR2 – real fun driving remembered by boy racers who are now all grown up with boy racers of their own

Ford's XR2 dream machine standing the test of time

AIRBAGS, anti-lock brakes, power steering . . . forget them all. A quarter of a century ago, fun on four wheels came in a much simpler form.

Back in 1988 the Ford Fiesta XR2 was the dream machine for a generation of wannabe boy racers, wishing they could find the £5,713 needed to buy one of these pocket rockets.

It not only felt quick, with a top speed the heady side of 110mph, but it looked quick too, with its alloy wheels, wheel arch extensions and, the bit everyone loved, a chunky U-shaped spoiler wrapping itself around the rear hatch. Affordable fun had never looked so cool and every young male with a new driving licence burning a hole in his bank account wanted one.

Ford is still in the quick hatch business today, after one or two stumbles along the way. Now, the affordable bottom line sits around £17,000 and comes in the shape of the recently released Fiesta ST.

Turn

And this time, of course, there are airbags if you crash and brakes that won't lock if you push to hard on a slippery road.

Why, there's even some discreet assistance to help you turn the steering wheel which, in the quarter-century between XR2 and ST, has changed from a thin circle of grey plastic to a leathered-up mix of curves and bumps that would sit well in a racer.

Didn't stop the old 'un offering fun by the bucket load when Ford let me loose in a well cared for, 90,000-mile XR2 that lives on the company's heritage fleet.

Not smile-a-mile, more laugh out loud every time you put your foot down and the little car responds with a roar of enthusiasm as you head for the horizon.

Of course today's Fiesta ST is wildly faster (137mph plays 112mph) and much quicker off the mark; 6.9 seconds to 62mph is about four seconds quicker than the old car can manage.

However, you can buy a nicely preserved XR2 today for less than £4,000. Fun doesn't come much cheaper.

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The new Civic. Honda claims a fuel consumption figure of 78.5mpg

Instruments are wrapped around the driver and are all easily accessible

New Civic delivers on promise of top mileage

HONDA has fitted 'magic seats' to its new Civic but you will find the real box of tricks under its bonnet.

By Bill McCarthy

Scan down the spec sheet and one figure jumps out – incredible mileage claims of 78.5 per gallon could sell a car in its own right.

The 1.6-litre engine, which is built in Swindon, is aimed purely at the European market and the hunger for low CO2 and high mpg figures. In it's publicity pack Honda boasts that the new engine can get you from to London to Paris and back twice on just one tank.

I didn't test that 863-mile distance but the fuel needle refused to budge on my weekly commute and only really started moving on a trip up North.

The engine not only saves you a huge amount of cash on the forecourt, but also on road tax and congestion charge where applicable.

With all the focus on the engine it's easy to forget that the Civic also performs well, looks good and is brilliantly equipped. Some eco-model cars feel sluggish and uninspiring to drive, but there is a good combination of acceleration and mid-range pull behind the wheel.

It's quite a big car to drive, but is still an agile performer with a smooth ride.

It's also an attractive looking car with the five-door family sized model looking like it belongs on a catwalk rather than a car park.

Float

The wrap-around glass on the front, from days of old, has gone and the mid-window mounted rear lights now jut out from the window and appear to float in the air.

It still looks low to the ground and athletic with concealed rear door handles, shark-fin antenna and 16in alloy wheels.

On the inside the car has been laid out like the cockpit of a fighter jet. The instruments are wrapped around the driver and are all easily accessible and easy to use.

The six-speed gear stick sits quite high in the central well below a clever touch-screen system that houses an easy-to-use sat-nav, DAB radio and premium audio system.

All models have an Idle Stop button that can be switched on and off. Base models come in at under £20,000 and include LED daytime running lights, climate control, CD and heated wing mirrors to name a few.

The mid-range ES model adds cruise control, a rear view reversing camera, Bluetooth hands-free and an ultrasonic alarm.

The EX tested had HDD navigation, premium sound system with sub-woofer, parking sensors and heated leather seats.

Honda says it has worked hard to limit the noise inside the car, but the wind noise at motorway speeds was probably my only bug bear on this car, and that was a hard one to find.

The boot is the biggest in its class and there is loads of head and legroom for driver and passengers.

Movement

Not content with innovations in clever radar safety systems and engine turbochargers, Honda has even waved the wand with the seats.

They are billed as 'magic' and lift up, fold over and lock down in one easy movement for a quick 60/40 split.

But even when somebody is sat in them there are huge spaces underneath the bases to store bulky items and there is the chance to slide through to the boot space.

In the safety stakes the Civic has been rated as one of Europe's safest cars by NCAP.

Honda is still a trailblazer in innovation and is always trying to improve fuel efficiency, performance and safety.

The launch of this clever car with smart engine is a shot across the bows of competitors like VW, Ford and Audi who may have to find a little bit of magical inspiration themselves.

Bumper to bumper

Honda Civic

Price: £23,675
Mechanical: 1,597cc, 120bhp, turbo-charged ITEC diesel engine driving front wheels via six-speed manual transmission
Max speed: 129 mph
0-62mph: 10.5 secs
Combined mpg: 78.5mpg
Insurance group: 15E
CO2 emissions: 94g/km
BiK rating: 13 per cent
Warranty: Three years/90,000-mile warranty; three years paint; 12 years anti-perforation; five years exhaust system

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deaths

JACQUES
Vera May

Sadly passed away on September 20, 2013, aged 79 years.

Sadly missed by Husband Stuart and Daughter Kathryn and Families.

The Funeral Service will take place at St Luke's Church, Cannock, followed by Cremation at Stafford.

Family flowers only, donations welcome to St Giles Hospice.

For further details please contact
A J SELLMAN FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
70 Church Street
Cannock
WS11 1DH
01543 502322.

MARTIN
Graham

Died on September 11, 2013.

Shared a long, sincere friendship over many years.

God bless.

Rest in peace.

Margaret and Family.

X

MEHIC
Sharon

Of Hednesford.

Passed away suddenly on September 16, 2013, aged 52 years.

Sadly missed by her Mother Brenda, Daughter Olivia, Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 1.30pm, at St Peter's Church, Hednesford followed by the Interment in the Churchyard.

Further inquiries to
GEORGE STACEY
Funeral Directors,
30 Greenheath Road,
Hednesford.
WS12 4AR.
01543 422524

RICHARDSON
Ceridwen Christine

Passed away on September 8, 2013, aged 62 years.

Much loved and sadly missed by all her Family.

Funeral Service to take place at Calvary Church, Brickiln Street, Brownhills, on Monday, September 30, at 12.45pm, followed by a Committal Service at Streetly Crematorium at 2pm.

Flowers welcome or donations for The Queen Elizabeth Transplant unit may be forwarded to the Funeral Directors

JOHN SHORT & SON
3 High Street
Chasetown
Burntwood
Staffs
WS7 3XE
Telephone 01543 686204.

WARRE
Douglas

Passed peacefully away at home on Tuesday, September 17, 2013, aged 81 years.

Sadly missed by Wife Richender, Son Nigel and Daughter Julia.

Funeral Service to take place at Stafford Crematorium on Monday, September 30, at 1.30pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Katharine House Care.

All inquiries c/o
CO-OPERATIVE
FUNERALCARE
49 Park Road
Cannock
WS11 1JN
Telephone 01543 572644

PALMER
June

Of West Chadsmoor, Cannock, passed away suddenly on September 23, 2013, aged 80 years.

Sadly missed by all Family and Friends.

For Funeral details please contact
GEORGE STACEY
Funeral Directors,
30 Greenheath Road,
Hednesford.
WS12 4AR.
01543 422524

POYNER—WALL
Jessica
Sister

Passed away peacefully September 16, 2013.

A Spitfire girl said she will be flying high.

From Your loving Sister Rosemarie, Nephew Peter the Pilot, Neice Pamela, Nephew Geoffrey.

R. I. P.

ROBSON
Gerald

Passed peacefully away on September 22, 2013, in his 94th year.

Sadly missed by his Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday, October 1, at St. Thomas' Church, Huntington, at 10am, followed by Cremation at Stafford at 11am.

Everyone welcome.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to St. Thomas' Church for the stained glass window.

Further inquiries to
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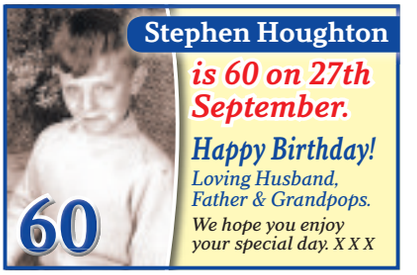
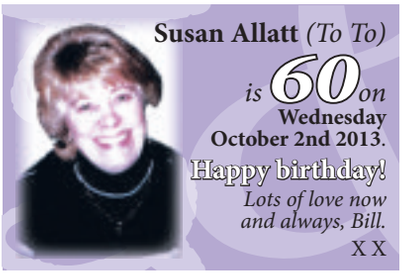
FUNERALCARE
49, Park Road,
Cannock.
Telephone 01543 572644.

birthdays





marriages

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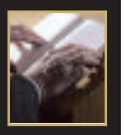
HEATH HAYES & GREAT WYRLEY



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LOST DOG
Jack Russell, 4 years old.Unusual colour ginger / gold, friendly,short tail wearing a brown collar. Children missing him. Reward for info leading to his return 07774 459635.

LOST MINIATURE Jack Russell bitch short tail white / tan in Shoal Hill area, Cannock, Friday September 13. Reward. 01543 830179.

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Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

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5 Business & Farming
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7 Jobs
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9 Local Information
10 Personals

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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5 Business & Farming

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business directory

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(T&C's below)

LOVING caring young 66yr old female, 5ft 2ins, size 12, blonde hair, GSOH, seeks knight in shining armour 58-62 with GSOH. Walsall. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 340763**

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113**

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003**

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765**

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449**

HONEST beautiful black female, N/S, seeks honest, caring, white man, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405395**

GORGEOUS black attractive female, N/S, seeks genuine caring white male, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405887**

CLAIRE 18 single with OHAC looking for mature relationship with male 40-50yrs to pamper me and show me a really good time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407483**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

LINN young looking divorced female, attractive, honest, caring and reliable looking to meet similar N/S animal loving male to enjoy happy times, tlc, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407473**

TALL dark, handsome male, 54, WLTM female, any age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407559**

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

BECCA 5ft 9ins, curvy, good job, seeking black/mixed race male, 35-45, 6ft plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391693**

SARAH slim, honest, caring, attractive looking for that special guy to spend special times with, looks unimportant, similar lonely hearts need only apply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407507**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 407321**

SALLY neglected 27yr old single female looking for genuine guy to help mend my broken heart and enjoy lots of adult fun times along the way. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407499**

5FT 10ins slim brunette female with GSOH, Down to earth, fun and quirky, looking for similar male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403991**

ARE you my Knight in shining armour? Young 65yr old female, smoker, seeks genuine guy, 55-60 who is slim in Walsall area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376742**

ANNE 57, nurse, 5ft 4ins, likes swimming, cooking, countryside, looking for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405645**

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139**

LARGE female, seeking male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406027**

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

PATRICIA likes travel, cooking, socialising, seeks honest, sincere white male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402053**

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169**

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405277**

46YR old black British female, 5ft 4ins, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404987**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

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SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

FEMALE 50, 5ft 7ins, average build, fair hair, easygoing, seeking tall, slim male, 47-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395793**

SEXY mature female, in great condition, but has been without for far too long! Looking for intimate adult fun without commitment. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358186**

FEMALE 41, 5ft 7ins, seeks male for nights in/out, romance and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397361**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923**

SHY lady, 38, seeks understanding, genuine, sincere male, 40-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400981**

66YR old widow, seeks male for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393436**

SINGLE MEN

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(T&C's below).

BROADMINDED 67yr old male, fit, active, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks N/S female, open minded, 62-69 for genuine LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407785**

MALE 50, likes country walks, nights in/out, swimming, meals out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393157**

40YR old male, seeks female, 30-40 in Leamington Spa/Rugby area for romance and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407551**

TONY 32, honest, caring, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407395**

JOHN 50, seeking mature female for no strings daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394148**

MALE likes pubs, socialising, football, seeking black female, 46-57 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407595**

HONEST black Male, 45, tall, slim build, caring, quiet, seeks nice, quiet white lady, large build to share all the good things. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341691**

SINGLE male, youthful, serene, seeks similar down to earth non materialistic female to become everlasting soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407711**

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313**

HANDSOME chap, looking N/S female for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407631**

PATSY 50, decent looking, seeking any aged female for company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407373**

MALE 41, honest, caring, seeks female, 18-55 for friendship, maybe more, must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407677**

PAUL slim, attractive 48, willing to give his last rolo to lady 35-55. Halesowen. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375897**

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257**

BLACK Male, young-looking 40s, seeks large white Female, 40 plus, for fun, laughter & good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341689**

JEROME black Afro-Caribbean, 5ft 11ins, slim, intelligent, witty, outgoing, well spoken, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392817**

MALE 5ft 9ins, blond hair, into soul music, WLTM fun loving, caring black female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404647**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, WLTM genuine, pretty female, 24-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407753**

CHRIS divorced, 55, smoker, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407715**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

SINGLE male 59, no ties, honest, loyal, serene nature, seeks mature female with the view to becoming lifetime soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404527**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, seeks sexy, genuine female, 24-42 for adult fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407411**

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382997**

GAY SINGLES

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www.localgaydate.co.uk

KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young lavish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for adventurous fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 355984**

GENUINE honest, caring male, seeks mature, hairy, bald guy for genuine friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407529**

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Classified Ads

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

CITREON C3 Exclusive, 09 plate, auto, MoT, 1.6v, alloy wheels, very good condition, 37,900 miles. £4,500 ono. 07532 086095.

FORD MONDEO 2.2TDCi 155 EDGE Hatchback, 2007, 96,500 miles, black, one owner, alloys, Bluetooth, a/c, MoT, tax, service history. **£2,350.** **07764 589354 (Telford).**

JAGUAR S TYPE V8 SE Automatic, 2005, low mileage (36,990 miles), dark blue, pure luxury. **£5,950.** **0121 5207058.**

MERCEDES A160, blue efficiency, Avantt Garde, 2009, diesel, manual, Sat Nav, silver, immaculate. £6,990. 01902 842250.

MUST BE SEEN

MERCEDES BENZ E320 CDi AVANT GARDE ESTATE 2004, Silver with black leather interior. 179,000 miles. One non smoking owner from new. FSH, one months Tax, 12 months MoT. **£4,250.** **07977 939497. Staffs.**

MUST BE SEEN

MERCEDES C180 COMPRESSOR Estate, 58 plate, 70,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd, fsh, very good condition, £10,250. 07881 554286.

MINI COOPER 1.6, auto, 8 months MoT, 6 months tax, 46k, 03 reg, very good condition, £3,900 ono. 07507 069469 (Tipton).

PEUGEOT 107 1.0 Urban, black, 6 months tax, 12 months MoT, CD, 5dr, very good condition, £3,000. 07448 058505/0121 5722170

PEUGEOT 207 2010 reg., silver, 1360cc, petrol, 6,300 miles, 6 months MoT and tax, very good condition. £6,000. 01922 416968.

PEUGEOT 307S 1.4 06 reg, black, MoT February 2014, 82,000 miles, CD/radio, excellent condition inside and out. **£1,650 ono.** **01543 483171 (after 5pm).**

RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION 55 reg, Taxed and MoT'd. £1,100. o.n.o. Telephone 0121 520 6809.

VW GOLF SDI, 02, 125k miles, red, abs, 11 months MoT, pas, diesel, good condition, £1,550. 07929 448403.

cars under £1500

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AUDI A6 ESTATE 1.8T, 1999, 106,000 miles, Blue, tax, MoT, usual extras, £750. 07951 510665.

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DAEWOO MATIZ 4-dr, 51 plate, 39,000 miles only, 45 good tyres, 11 mnths MoT £475 ono. 0121 218 3781/ 07936 282473.

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HYUNDAI TRAJET 2.7 PETROL Automatic, 7 seater, 53 reg, 1 owner from new, fsh, MoT August 2014, tax February 2014. **£950 ono.** **01922 441749/07796 633988.**

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at: 9 Chaseley Avenue, Shoal Hill, Cannock, Staffordshire, Cannock WS11 1JG

Take notice that application is being made by: Mr Matthew Hood

For planning permission to: Notice to enclose portion of land adjacent to 9 Chaseley Avenue. Currently open space, will become private curtilage

Local Planning Authority to whom that application is being submitted: Cannock Chase District Council

Local Planning Authority address: Cannock Chase District Council, Beecroft Road, Civic Centre, Cannock WS11 1BG

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the Council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signatory: Mr Matthew Hood
Date: 16-09-2013

Statement of owners' rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

OLIVE MARY BROOKES (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Hawksyard Priory Nursing Home Armitage (formerly of "Sundown" Hall Lane Hammerwich Lichfield Staffordshire), who died on 24/05/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 06/12/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSALS

Major Planning Application
CH/13/0323

Land off Lakeside Boulevard, Bridgetown, Cannock

Residential development: Erection of 100 dwellings, public house/restaurant and provision of public open space (outline all matters reserved).

All applications may be inspected at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11BG by 17/10/2013 Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

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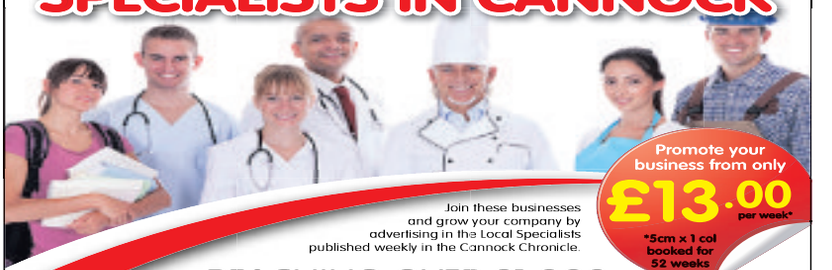

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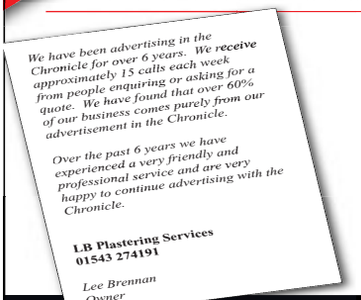
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SPORT

Early end to game as hosts take a big lead

Rugeley 2nds 58
Essington 2nds 3

RUGELEY welcomed Essington to St Augustine's Field for a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon game of rugby union.

When a fired-up Essington came out it looked from the outset that the more aggressive-looking visitors would take control.

This was evident from the start as they converted a penalty to take the lead.

However, that was as good as it got as Rugeley regrouped and took control themselves.

Within the next 10 minutes, both Dave Bagnall and Tom Downes scored under the posts, both converted by Downes, who later placed the ball over for the line his second try.

Kicked

An Essington player eas sin-binned for what was deemed dangerous play, and a penalty for Rugeley kicked by Downes made it 22-3.

Tom Wilson scored the first of his two tries, converted by Downes before the break. Dave Brettle added another score, but even after the interval, Rugeley never let up.

With only four minutes gone in the second half, Dan Bickley and Rugeley were taking full control.

A try by Martin Grocott made it 44-3, Wilson added a try, converted by Downes and in the last 10 minutes captain Baz Newton scored, converted by Jordon Wood.

The visitors conceded defeat and asked the match official to draw an early end to proceedings.

Wheeldon four-some

Lichfield City Spires 0
Wyrley Juniors Utd U13 6

UNITED put in yet another performance which didn't disappoint, breaking the deadlock within the first 10 minutes through Tom Wheeldon.

United went further ahead when Liam Morley was on hand to score from close to the penalty spot and another Wheeldon effort

United were unlucky not to add to their tally when Lewis Hill fired wide

Wheeldon added to the scoring, notching two more, either side of another Wyrley goal, to bring his personal haul to four.

Tom Rowlands was Man of the Match.

Advantage taken as players are sin-binned

Warley 30 Cannock 29

CANNOCK were looking to further their strong start to the season on a visit to newly-promoted Warley.

Instead they were left frustrated by conceding sloppy tries and failing to capitalise on opportunities.

Strong set-piece play ensured Cannock had the lion's share of possession for the majority of the game.

Early pressure resulted in a penalty opportunity, which although Scott Pedley missed, Cannock were able to maintain the pressure in the opposition 22 and Sonny Stanaway crash over from short range for a try that went unconverted. A Freeman try, converted by Pedley gave Cannock an early 12-0 lead.

From the re-start Warley finally had some possession in the visitors' half and indiscipline led to a penalty award awarded which was duly converted.

As Cannock grew inpatient and tried to force the issue, an optimistic pass from deep in their own half was intercepted for an easy try in the corner.

With five minutes of the half remaining Joe Brookes scored under the posts and Cannock led

Cannock Rugby

19-8. After the interval, Cannock scored their bonus point try through Stephen Frost, but with a 26-8 lead they switched off.

Loose-head Scott Lathe was sin-binned and was soon followed by No9 Dorian.

Warley made the most of the two-man advantage and bludgeoned over for a converted try. From the restart Cannock earned a penalty that was converted.

However this was repeated when Warley restarted. Two tries from slopy defending, the second converted meant Warley were in front, and although Cannock were back to 15 men, they did everything but score in the last 10 minutes.

Cannock travel to Trinity Guild, Coventry this weekend.

Cannock 2nd XV 20
Wolverhampton 26

Cannock Seconds welcomed Wolverhampton thirds to the Morgan ground in a tight affair.

Kris Hampton went over under the sticks for the first score which was converted by Dan Clarke.

Wolverhampton reorganised and scored themselves but Clarke converted a penalty in reply for Cannock. A player borrowed from the opposition touched down for Cannock and Phil Pedley put his name on the scoresheet.

Tempers flared as Wolverhampton started to put feet in where they don't belong. They were then able to cross for an uncoverted try.

With Cannock 20-19 up Clarke went for goal with a penalty but missed and in the last passage of play Wolverhampton touched down for a converted try.

Cannock senior training is on Wednesdays from 7pm. Cannock junior training is on Sunday mornings from 10.30. Cannock Lionesses train on Mondays from 7pm.

Top of the table after second bonus point win

Bloxwich 17 Burntwood 54 Midlands 3 West North

BURNTWOOD followed up their opening day bonus point win with another to put themselves a point clear at the top of the table after two rounds of fixtures.

Despite falling behind early on, Burntwood hit back with seven tries, the bulk of them in a second period tally of 38 points, to pass the half century.

Playing down the slope in perfect conditions, the hosts mounted early pressure.

Having failed to find their winger with conventional passes, the Bloxwich outside half chose to kick the ball to the bottom corner for the winger to collect and dot down to open the scoring on 11 minutes.

Threatened

Jack Neale was put in for a try to level the scores after 17 minutes.

Good work first by Neale and then by Danny Poole earned two penalties which Will Peach converted to put Burntwood 11-5 ahead on the half hour mark.

The try Burntwood had threatened came four minutes later. From a scrum on their own 10 metre line, Peach slipped Holt through a gap and he side-stepped the full back en route to the try line.

Two minutes into the second half Burntwood pulled further ahead with an opportunist try from Peplow, Peach converted.

The bonus point try was scored after 49 minutes as Bayliss swept round to the

Burntwood Rugby

open side to go over by the posts for Peach to convert easily.

A classy break by James Langford took play back into the home half from the restart and led to a penalty goal in front of the posts by Peach.

Close to the hour mark Bloxwich forwards camped on the five-metre line and eventually put the No. 4 over for a try.

A quiet period of play was ended with another fine individual try from Holt, Peach converted for 40-10. A Taylor try, converted by Peach, was followed by a third, converted Bloxwich try in the 79th minute.

But there was still time for the visitors to put one last nail in the coffin as Shelley touched down. Peach converted.

Burntwood have a bye in the First Round of the RFU Senior Vase, so are without a fixture this weekend.

The Development Squad and 3rd XV face Stafford opposition with the former at Stafford and the latter at The Sportsway.

Barrie has hole lot of hope for a lucky break

Beau Desert golfer Barrie Stevens partners PGA pro Brian Rimmer

A CHASE golfer hopes this will be a 'golden year' for him at the Golfbreaks.com PGA Fourball Championship.

Beau Desert Golf Club's Barrie Stevens is partnering Little Aston PGA Professional Brian Rimmer at the Forest Pines event and the pair hope they will finally be rewarded with success after several failed attempts to get to the final.

The £28,750 showpiece, supported by BMW, will be held at Forest Pines Hotel and Golf Club in Lincolnshire from October 2-4 and while Stevens has represented the Cannock club in the final before, he's never managed to get there with former PGA Cup player Rimmer.

"We must have made six or seven attempts and this time we finally made it," said Stevens.

Concentrating

"Even though we needed a play-off to qualify we're hoping this is going to be the golden year for us. Funnily enough, I've got there twice without Brian as he was injured both times."

Stevens added: "Brian won the Staffordshire Match Play Championship recently. I've actually being concentrating more on the playing side this year, but it's been disappointing as I've had a few injuries which have held me back.

"We've got this final to try and end the season well and I'm looking forward to playing Forest Pines as it's a tight course, a bit like Beau Desert. It's also long, and Brian's more of a long player so we'll gel.

"We're good friends and play a lot in the winter. I think we'll probably be one of the older pairings there, but we've certainly got experience on our side."

Unanimous decision is in favour of Roberts, 17

SEVENTEEN year old Mitch Roberts got Great Wyrley ABC's season off to a winning start when he completed the double over a very game Jack Melvin (IBA ABC).

Roberts took a unanimous points decision over three, two minute rounds at Meadway Sports and Social Club, Birmingham.

The pair had met back in April over three bad tempered, wild rounds with the Wyrley boxer also taking a unanimous decision on that occasion. This time Roberts boxed very tidily to take a convincing decision over the hometown favorite.

Both boxers began cagily in the first round, probing for openings with Melvin boxing behind a higher guard than usual while the Wyrley fighter advanced steadily behind a high guard.

Meaty

The second saw the bout spark into life as Roberts found the target with some very meaty body punching which had Melvin either clinging on for dear life or fleeing around the ring.

It was all Roberts in the last round as his body punching and constant pressure paid dividends, and a booming right hook floored the tiring Birmingham boxer heavily about 10 seconds before the final bell to cap a fine performance from the Wyrley boxer.

Roberts is in action again tomorrow (Friday), along with twin brother Reece and 13-year-old Oliver Cooper, starting a busy period over the next four weeks or so for the Wyrley Gym.

Speed quick off the mark

Brereton Town U9s 2
Chasetown Colts 4

A BETTER nine-a-side performance by Brereton. Both goals were scored by Man of the Match Jamie Speed, one from outside the box and one from the penalty spot.

Rhys Burton did well as stand-in goalkeeper.

Brereton Town 1
Lichfield Round Table 6

Morgan Hudson captained Brereton for their first nine-a-side game. However, they were unable to stop Lichfield's defence who were on their game.

Man of the Match for Brereton was AJ Murray in goal. Brereton's only goal came from Ethan Hopcott.

Team still on hunt for first win of the season

Cannock 0 Wimbledon 2

CANNOCK and Wimbledon both came into their second game of the National Hockey League looking for their first win of the season.

And it was the visitors who returned home with the points thanks to goals from John Kinder and James Osborn.

From the start Wimbledon pressed high up the pitch and began strongly. The hosts found it hard to break through the Wimbledon defence led by their captain, former Cannock player Ben Dando.

The game's first goal came from a long, low driven pass on 19 minutes, Kinder squeezing the ball under goalkeeper Patrick Smith.

Cannock's best chance of the half fell to Matt Plunkett who could only hit the ball wide from close range.

Cannock's best moment came in the 65th minute but Martin Ebbage was unable to make clean contact with his shot on goal.

Despite Cannock's pressure the game's second goal came from Osborn with two minutes to go.

Cannock will hope they can pick up their first three points when they travel to Reading on Saturday.

Cannock's young second team were also in action last weekend with a 1st Round EH Cup game against Burton. They won 23-1 with the one conceded being an own goal.

Lloyd brace in opening match win

Birmingham Uni 1
Cannock Ladies 2nds 3

IN the last friendly before the league starts, Cannock Ladies 2nds took on Birmingham University.

Lucy Black, Gemma Brooks and Jude Hitchens put Cannock three up before Birmingham pulled one back.

Leek Ladies 2nds 3
Cannock Ladies 3rds 1

Cannock's much-awaited first league game ended in disappointment.

Theresa Martin was the goalscorer.

Cannock Ladies 5ths 2
Leek Ladies 4ths 0

Georgia Lloyd scored twice as Cannock 5ths got off to a winning start in Division Four of the Staffordshire League.

Game abandoned after players suffer breaks

Cannock Chase League by Tim Elsmore

BRERETON Social Lion climb to second in the Premier League with a 5-1 victory over **Dynamo Lamb** with high hopes of lifting the champions shield for the first time in their 25 year history.

Third placed **Littleton** beat **Brereton Town**, still looking for their first points, 3 – 0.

Leaders **Yates Sports** dropped their first points of the season, leading 2-0 with 10 minutes to go, they drew 2-2 with **Belt Road**, player/manager Will Tranter with a last-minute penalty.

Rugeley United beat **Hawkins Sports** 2-0, **Ridware Oak** beat **Red, White & Blue** 4-0

Lea Hall beat **Hawkins Inex** 3-0 and **The Ascot** climb off the bottom with their first point against **AFC Slade** 1-1.

In Division Three, Andy McMath's double bagged the three points for **Winding Wheel** beating **Bridgtown Social** 2-1. **King George Casuals** beat **Jubilee** 4-3, while **Brinsford** and **Railway** draw 3-3.

Pear Tree made it six wins from six in Division Four by thrashing Essington 7-1. **Pied Piper** beat **Cannock Rangers** 5-3.

Rugeley Rangers thrashed **AFC Fern** 8-1 with Dale Faultless scoring a hat-trick. **Soldiers** beat **Cannock Ex** 7-1.

The game between **The Nest** and **The Hen House** was abandoned after 37 minutes with the Nest 2-0 up when firstly Mike Garrington broke his ankle, followed by Olly Wooton breaking his leg. Both are wished a speedy recovery

Third Division **Wyrley Juniors** fought back from two goals down to knock out first division **CK Courtyard** 3-2 in the second round of the Cannock Chase Cup.

Fixtures for September 29: Premier: Brereton Town v Dynamo Lamb; Hawkins Sports v Belt Road; Ridware Oak v Brereton Social Lion; The Littleton v Rugeley United; Yates Sports v Red White & Blue.

Division 1: Chase Spartans v AFC Jubilee; Nelson Inn v CK Courtyard; TNT v Bar Sport; Why Not v Harrisons.

Division 2: Ascot v Samson Blewitt; Lea Hall v Victoria; Olly's v Colliers Arms; Talbot v Hawkins Inex; Trafalgar v Cheslyn Hay; Victoria Athletic v AFC Slade.

Division 3: AFC Railway v Bridgtown Social; Bloxwich Cow v King George V Casuals; Brinsford v Jubilee; Hazel Slade v Castle; Mill Farm v AFC Winding Wheel; Wyrley Juniors v Crystal Fountain.

Division 4: AFC Essington v Cannock Rangers; AFC Piper v Hen House; AFC Woody's v Pear Tree; Cannock Ex v AFC Nags Head; Nest v AFC Fern; Prairie Farm v Soldiers.

Sub Sullivan finds the net as he comes of age

Bedworth United 1 Chasetown 1

THERE would be no question that this game would be a firm candidate for the last one to be shown on an episode of 'Match of the Day', ***writes Paul Mullins.***

It was hardly a classic, but would be a game that Chasetown would consider they should have won.

Chasetown FC

It was Chasetown boss Craig Harris' 50th league match in charge of The Scholars but he would have seen very few games with as little goalmouth action as served up in the first half at the Oval Ground.

Two Chasetown chances fell to Danny Smith – the first a flicked header wide of the upright from a Simon Brown free kick and a bullet Smith header from close range that Bedworth keeper Andy Kemp was able to get a strong hand on to keep out.

Hamstring

The Scholars had more urgency in the second half but this was to their cost as Smith burst forward past full back Greg Webb only to pull up as he went into the penalty area with a hamstring injury.

Smith's loss was Chasetown's gain as Paul Sullivan came on as sub, returning from his rib injury suffered at Eastwood Town.

Callum Burgess completely misjudged the length of his back pass to Kemp and Sullivan, who turns 21 today (Thursday) was alive to the danger, nipped in front of the goalkeeper and with great composure fired Chasetown ahead.

Within two minutes Mitchell Piggon pulled the trigger with a hard hit shot and it looked like Ryan Price had kept it out, only for the power to be too much as the Greenbacks levelled the scores.

Chasetown 0 Belper Town1

A HOTLY-contested double penalty decision was the match clincher in a tight match on Saturday in which the home side largely dominated.

With 72 minutes on the clock, a Chasetown short corner found its way to Nick Wellecomme and the Scholars appealed for a penalty as the striker appeared to be clipped by Belper Town's Richard Adams. The appeals were waved away and Belper broke quickly with the referee adjudging Chris Slater to have fouled Shaun Tuton when it seemed like the Chase skipper had won the ball cleanly.

After dismissing Slater for a red card, as last man, Jon Froggatt stepped up and converted the penalty low to Ryan Price's right.

Club demonstrates its support for hospice

Two Heath Hayes under-9s teams line up ahead of their Lichfield & District Recreational League season

HEATH Hayes Under 9's Blues and Whites teams are pictured together at the start of their first full competitive season in the Lichfield and District Junior League.

Heath Hayes Football Club is supporting St Giles Hospice over a three year development plan and are promoting the charity through a special hoarding and advertising space in its home matchday programme.

Wayne Moreton, welfare officer at Heath Hayes FC, said: "Heath Hayes FC is proud to support support St Giles Hospice in Lichfield and it's right that we use our club status to highlight the outstanding work they do."

Both the Heath Hayes Blues and Whites are sponsored by the Dilshad Indian Restaurant, in Chadsmoor.

The Blues team have got off to a good start to their league campaign having won two and drawn one of their opening three games. They drew 1-1 at home to Mere Green on Sunday.

The Whites have drawn one and lost two so far. On Sunday they ended up on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline to Burntwood Dragons with Jake Rushton scoring. Man of the match was keeper Theo Abbs-Torbica.

M&B just two points away from taking title

A 12-4 Victory at Willenhall Nordley B has put M&B Cheslyn Hay within two points of claiming the Dudley Building Society Bowls League Premier Division title.

The four points mean Willenhall Nordley B require victory in the return fixture to guarantee their survival.

ECC narrowly defeated Willenhall Nordley A 8-6, but to beat the drop will need at least nine points while hoping M&B whitewash Willenhall Nordley B.

Chadsmoor Progressive retain a slim chance of the title following a 10-6 win at Woodfield.

Hawkins Sports have become hot favourites to join Short Heath Liberal in the Premier. They won 10-6 victory at Pennfields A.

Short Heath Liberal sewed up the title with a 12-2 home victory over Sedgley Ex-Service.

In Division Two, leaders Bylet suffered a surprise 9-5 defeat at DMBEC 21-5.

Second-placed Chadsmoor Progressive B defeated Stile 9-5, but Codsall Ex-Service dropped points in a 9-5 loss at Woodfield C.

An intriguing battle for the Division Three crown saw The Gate complete their fixtures with an 11-3 defeat at Penkridge.

Yale Social won 13-3 at Shifnal B and can overhaul The Gate with 14 points from their home and away fixtures against Pennfields C.

Hayes put and end to leaders' run

Heath Hayes u16s 3
Tipton Town 3

HAYES let a two-goal lead slip, but at least put an end to Tipton's goal-laden start to the Midland Junior Premier League season.

The visitors had scored 15 goals in winning their first two games, conceding just two. But by half an hour they were two down thanks to a brace from Curtis Shipp, the second from the spot after Callan Griffin was upended.

Osiris Hammond's cool finish restored the two-goal advantage after Tipton pulled one back.

The visitors hit back again to force a draw, though Hayes keeper Tony Allsopp had pulled off three top drawer saves.

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Downfall created by gifting of goals

Quorn 4 Heath Hayes 0

THIS was always going to be a difficult Midland Alliance fixture for the young Hayes side but they contributed to their own downfall by gifting three goals to the opposition.

Hayes opened brightly and Adam Langley and Dave Waple both tested home keeper Michael Turner.

Quorn opened the scoring on 12 minutes when Karl Whymark broke through from midfield and as the Hayes defence all waited for each other to get a tackle in he calmly picked his spot.

It required an inspired performance from Hayes keeper Adam Jenkins who produced a series of breath-taking saves throughout the game to keep his side in it.

Clearance

As the half wore on Hayes got more and more into the game playing some neat football and Waple went close with two headed efforts and a clever lob from Dan Lomas forced Turner into a good save.

On the stroke of half time disaster struck for the visitors. Tom Baggott's poor clearance hit Joe Geldart and fell into the path of Dom Brennan for a simple tap in.

Matters got worse on 58 minutes when substitute Jay Aiton's suicidal back pass was gratefully accepted by Brennan who scored with ease.

Two minutes latter and it was all over when Nial Prenderville powered home a fourth for the home side.

Hayes tried to play some good football but lacked the finesse to trouble a side who will be challenging for promotion at the season's end.

Night with ace Keegan

ORGANISERS Compton Hospice say tickets for An Evening with Kevin Keegan in Dudley next week are selling well.

The former England player and manager will be at the Copthorne Hotel, on Thursday, October 3 in aid of the charity which supports patient with life-limiting illnesses.

Tickets cost £60 plus VAT per person or £55 plus VAT for tables of eight or 10.

The evening features a comedian, three-course meal and question and answer session with the double European Footballer of the Year.

Boxing legend Holyfield in Second City date

Boxing legend Evander Holyfield in Cannock with Bar Sport owner Scott Murray

BOXING legend Evander Holyfield will be back in the West Midlands at the start of next month as the feature attraction of a sportsman's dinner in the heart of Birmingham.

The former undisputed world heavyweight champion will be at the Second City's Holiday Inn Hotel on Smallbrook Queensway on Wednesday night, October 2.

Earlier this month he kicked off his UK tour with a date at Bar Sport, in Cannock.

'The Real Deal' was one of the most recognisable fighters of his era, turning pro at 21 after winning a bronze medal at the 1984 Olympic Games. He knocked out

Boxing

Mike Tyson's conqueror, James 'Buster' Douglas, to take all the heavyweight belts for the first time in 1990 but retired after being defeated for the titles by Michael Moorer in 1994.

He returned and engaged in two big battles with Tyson, taking the WBA crown by stoppage in 1996 and then winning by disqualification a year later, after famously having part of his ear bitten off.

He drew with Lennox Lewis in 1999 but lost a rematch eight months later, before becoming the only boxer to win a version of the heavyweight title four times in 2000, against John Ruiz. The 50-year-old hasn't retired yet, either, last halting Dane Brian Neilsen in the 10th round in May 2011 although he hasn't competed since.

Before the evening show, Holyfield and Brummie former British middleweight champion Wayne Elcock will be visiting Birmingham Children's Hospital at 1pm to hand out presents to the patients.

Tickets to the dinner are £50, £100 and £150 – which includes a three-course meal – with prices rising for back, middle and front tier seating.

For more information, call 07976 842 383 or visit **www.boxfrog uk.com**

PITMEN SHOW NO SIGN OF FLAGGING

Guiseley AFC 1 Hednesford Town 2

IF THERE was a stereotypical game of two halves this was very much it, *writes Scott Smith*.

The Pitmen rode their luck throughout the first 45 minutes before putting in a composed second half showing to remain top of the Skrill North following an excellent 2-1 victory at Guiseley.

The hosts, under the guidance of new manager Mark Bower for the first time after being appointed on a permanent basis, were keen to impress and should have opened the scoring in the sixth minute. Michael Burns found space inside the penalty area but could only rattle the bar with his well-struck effort.

Guiseley had two good efforts in as many minutes as first Wayne Brooksby pulled an effort wide before Gavin Rothery struck the upright.

Witnessed

Hednesford hadn't really been in the game and it took until the 26th minute to produce their first real half effort when Matt Regan headed wide at the back post from a corner.

Town manager Rob Smith was not impressed with what he had witnessed in the first 45 and as such made two changes at half-time with Alex Melbourne and Robbie Thompson-Brown both being introduced.

Two minutes into the second half came the main talking point as play was halted for 11 minutes with one of the assistant referees pulling up with an injury.

He was unable to carry on so, following an appeal over the tannoy, was replaced by a qualified official from the

Hednesford Town

crowd. Within two minutes of the restart Town were in front.

Neil Harvey was played in by Darren Campion and he was able to round Steve Drench in the Guiseley goal before slotting home despite the best attempts of the home side's defenders.

Hednesford were now on top and should have perhaps doubled their lead with 15 minutes remaining only for Thompson-Brown to lash his effort over the bar from inside the 18-yard box.

As the clock ticked onto 80 minutes, Elliott Durrell made it 2-0. After being superbly picked out on the wing he cut inside and fired low into the bottom corner of the net from just inside the penalty area.

In the 93rd minute, Rothery was sent off for using foul and abusive language towards an assistant referee. However Guiseley still had time to pull a goal back through Burns and could have levelled in the last seconds but for a last-ditch tackle by Regan on Alex Johnson.

Hednesford take a break from league action as they head to The New Bucks Head on Saturday for their FA Cup Second Qualifying Round tie against AFC Telford United, kick off 3pm.

The Pitmen's leading scorer Elliott Durrell jumps for joy after making it 2-0 for Hednesford against Guiseley

Make some noise, boss Smith tells supporters

HEDNESFORD boss Rob Smith has issued a rallying cry to Pitmen supporters ahead of his return to AFC Telford United this weekend.

Smith is back at the New Bucks Head for the first time since being relieved of his duties at the club as they line up in the FA Cup on Saturday.

He will be joined at his old stomping ground by assistants Larry Chambers, Steve Wynn and Chris Brindley as well as players Kris Taylor and Elliott Durrell, who all have Telford connections.

Smith said: "'I haven't been able to use my usual programme notes to ask, so I am personally requesting that as many Hednesford fans as are able to congregate in the stand behind the goal where the away fans are designated at the New Bucks Head and make as much noise as possible.

"It can be an intimidating ground and a lonely place for the opposition, so if our fans turn up in their usual exceptional numbers the players will revel in the atmosphere."

Anyone keen to travel hordes can call Ken Leese on 07935 723290 to book a place on the supporters' coach.

Dragons looking to boost squad

BURNTWOOD Dragons under-14s are looking for experienced players in all positions to help strengthen its current team playing in Division 1 of the Lichfield & District Recreational League.

Any interested players currently in school year 9, can contact Matt on 07971 108620.

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